



Saved But Still Enslaved

September 24, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: NUMBERS 15-21

Some of the biggest battles of our lives happen inside of us - attitudes, impulses and behavioral patterns, thought filters that need to be dealt with. We may be saved, but still enslaved. So what are we to do?



NOTES

“God showed his love for us in this, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

“By grace you have been saved by faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...”

Ephesians 2:8

Some of the biggest battles of your life happen inside of you - attitudes, impulses and behavioral patterns, thought filters that need to be dealt with.

Saved but still enslaved.

“I find this law at work; although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin, at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?”

Romans 7:21-24

UNBELIEF: attitude of doing life without God; a non-faith approach of resisting God’s will and rebelling against God being God with authority in your life.

“Everything that does not come from faith is sin.”

Romans 14:23

“So we see that they were not able to enter because of their unbelief.”

Hebrews 3:19

What you believe can make or break you. Help or hurt you.

The Israelites in the wilderness were griping, grumbling, complaining, resisting God, rebelling against their leaders, and letting fear run their lives.

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| - Rabble | 11:4 |
| - General population | 11:10 |
| - Moses’ family | 12:1 |
| - Returning spies | 13:31-33 |
| - All the Israelites | 14:2 |

They return to God and through their acts of worship stay connected and clean in their relationship with God.



“Make tassels on the corners of your garments with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at so you will remember all the commands of the Lord...”
Numbers 15:38-39

Resistance and rebellion return – now coming from different groups:
- Levite leaders (priests) 16:1-2

“You have gone too far! Why do you set yourselves above the Lord’s assembly?”
Numbers 16:3

God dismissed their charges against Moses and opened the earth to swallow the opposition.

“The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron saying, ‘You have killed the Lord’s people.’”
Numbers 16:41

First, the spiritual leaders are misleading the people. Now, their followers are escalating the rebellion in open hostility.
- Whole community 16:41

It’s been 37 years since they were at Kadesh, on the border of the Promised Land.

What does this next generation do? The same thing - complains, rebels, and quarrels with Moses. But then Moses rebels, too!

- Rabble 11:4
- General population 11:10
- Moses’ family 12:1
- Returning spies 13:31-33
- All the Israelites 14:2
- Levite leaders (priests) 16:1-2
- Whole community 16:41
- **The next generation 20:1-3**
- **Moses 20:10-11**

“Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?’ Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff.”
Numbers 20:10-11



“Since you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites you will not bring them into the land I give them.”

Numbers 20:12

What are we seeing play out in the wilderness?

- The human condition.

Saved but still enslaved. Full of SELF at every level.

Self-interested, self-absorbed, defiant, belligerent, arrogant, suspicious, envious, proud, self-righteous, shaming, blaming, angry

“If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other...”

Galatians 5:15

“...For the flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”

Galatians 5:17

“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21

What is the Problem?

The “*flesh*” (*sarx*) = Fallen human nature; our software is infected

The “*mystery of iniquity*” is at work in every life.

Bios = biological life, your physical nature.

Sarx = soul life, your sinful human nature.

In response to the priests’ rebellion, God had each of the 12 tribes bring a staff with their name on it to be placed in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Ark.

“The staff belonging to the man I choose (Aaron) will sprout.”

Numbers 17:5

Resurrection life is the mark of God’s choice for the True High Priest.



“...Kept as a sign for the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die.”

Numbers 17:10

The sign isn't a threat, but a sign of hope; the power of life blossoming from a stick full of death is the way to freedom from grumbling and judgment.

After yet another episode of rebellion, the people are infested by biting venomous snakes.

“We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.’ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.”

Numbers 21:7-9

The people initiated their confession - admitted it and owned it for themselves. They didn't blame God. They didn't blame Moses.

The way through the wilderness of recurring rebellion, sinful habits and our addiction to self is through true confession, resurrection life and a substitute snake lifted up.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

John 3:14-15

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

The resurrection life of God blossoming in you.

The cross of Jesus Christ is the pole holding the snake of our sin.

“God made him who was without sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20



The life I live in my infected software, I outlive by faith in Christ's death and life in me in love.

Christ/zoe = resurrection life, your new spiritual nature

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Galatians 5:22-23

This is the story about you and the way God has provided to get you free from the human condition that keeps us enslaved on the inside.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

Confess simply means agree with God.

What do you need to admit to God so He can meet you with resurrection life as you look at your substitute on the cross?

Bring your failures and shame to the cross.

Where have your eyes been looking?

Putting your eyes on Jesus means taking them off the other things that you've been looking to.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look and live.

