

## **Jubilee**

### *Prayer*

This morning I would like to remind you that Jesus has declared this to be a year of Jubilee for us here at Crossroads...

So What?

What does that mean?

Well to start with I'd like to take us on a journey into the Old Testament to discover what the meaning behind the year of Jubilee. Then I'd like to look to the New Testament and how Jubilee is fulfilled in Jesus. Then I'd like to look at some of the implications of Jubilee for us today and what it means for us specifically here at Crossroads.

### **The Situation**

How many of us look at our lives and our circumstances and live our lives as we see best?

Now, how many of us look to what God's word says and attempt to understand our lives and circumstances in conjunction with what his word says?

Let me ask another question... As we go through the problems of life. The disappointments, the loneliness, the depressive episodes, and hard times in general do we ever consider that God has a plan for us?

He has a plan to prosper us and not to harm us... (cf. Jer. 29:11) Yet, how often do we fall back to trying to manage our feeling and our situation on our own?

Have you ever considered that what you might perceive as a natural problem may in fact be a spiritual battle?

The enemy wants to rob your victory. He wants to steal your joy. Most of all he wants to keep you from doing anything about it...

We are told that God wants us to take Sabbath... He never intended that our Sabbath would be six days a week with one day at church...

So how has it happened?

People have become discouraged, depressed, tired, frustrated, overworked, rejected and so on...

There is a lot of hurt, dysfunction and discouragement in many of our lives. Time and time again we see people try to make a difference and with our worldly perspective we often see failure. We become fearful to try to change things because we have either become comfortable with the way they are or we don't believe we can make a difference. In short, we have given up hope, because we have placed our trust to make a difference in ourselves and have given up on God as a result.

So many Christians have become tired, frustrated or discouraged. We have allowed our natural perspectives to stop us and so we feel that we need rest and have gone on sabbatical. In conversations I have had with locals, they have come to believe that coming to church on Sunday is not about worshipping God in service to him, but rather about rest. Not rest in him, simply rest. Our lives have become so busy that people come to church to actually shut down from their busy week.

When we get so overloaded, we become burned out and so it is difficult for us as a people to pick ourselves up and change what is happening all around us. I believe this is because it has been so gradual.

As a kid remember Saturday cartoons, remember nothing being open on Sundays... How much our culture has changed just in the last 40 years. People are doing more work on more difficult time frames for less money.

People are tired... Just as the enemy wants them to be. He has taken away balance and he has robbed the people of God of their Sabbath so that they get to the point where church is the rest point of their week.

There is nothing wrong with resting in the Lord, but the church is not simply a place to rest on life's journey...

So this morning I ask:

- Do we need a Sabbath rest or a full Jubilee?
- Do the Kootenay's need Sabbath rest or a full Jubilee?
- Do some of us feel like slaves to debt or a paycheck?

So... What does the year of jubilee really mean?

Leviticus 25:1-10 NIV

*The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath to the Lord. For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of Sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. Whatever the land yields during the Sabbath year will be food for you—for*

*yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.*

My friends Crossroads has been in a time of Spiritual Sabbath... The harvest has not been reaped, and the land has lain fallow. What has come forward in harvest of souls has been what has been naturally produced by the years of previous seed sown into our community. Over the years, Salmo has experienced much and has become tired.

In fact, in conversations I have heard about people being newly saved here, much of what is said in the churches has been about what has historically happened...

Today I declare that the Lord is saying that he is doing a new thing. This is a new day in the life of his church here in Salmo...

Let's read on from verse 8...

*"Count off seven Sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven Sabbath years amount to a period of forty- nine years. Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants."*

My Friends, this is the year of spiritual jubilee...

God showed me a pair of eagles coming forth to THIS mission field and they had as their beaks silver trumpets. As they flew over the land, the wheat below turned white indicating it is ready for harvest. As the harvest started, silver and gold rain fell upon the fields indicating the Holy Spirit and the Presence of God in this place.

I was excited and so, I asked God what his plan is for his church here in Salmo. I asked him how to increase evangelism, and how to excite the people who come here to worship him in a deeper way. I asked him how to create in his people a renewal of joy.

God said to me: "Ray, this is your 50<sup>th</sup> year and I have placed you in this place for such a time as this... You will help to set the captives free, for I have declared this a year of Jubilee for those I have placed in your care and for you. And you must trust me for your provision."

This is the year when those who are in our church and are captive to strongholds in their lives; who are captive to fear, who are suffering, who need healing, and those who are struggling will be set free. I think we need an AMEN here!

This is a year where this church will embrace the Holy Spirit in a way that will astound and amaze many. This church is preparing for the harvest. The time of rest is coming to an end and preparation for a time of growing and prospering is at hand. We need to seize ahold of this and prepare our hearts.

The Holy Spirit is welcome in this place and I am overjoyed to say, in so many hearts here today. He will prepare and equip you for what is to come.

This is a Holy Year of Freedom... In this year we return to what God has given us. This is the year when we heal and experience the freedom God has for us... because very soon the trumpet will sound so we need to be active in bringing in the ordained harvest.

Friends, I am excited about what God is going to do here in Salmo and in the Kootenays in general. To be totally honest, I am excited about what he is doing world wide, but I feel personally called and invested in what he is doing right here, and right now.

We need to embrace God's jubilee and prepare for what is to come.

It's Jubilee! You are being rested and equipped. You have been and will continue to be given the tools to do what God has called you to do.

There is potentially a bit of sad news here... God has said: "You can never go back to the way things used to be..."

God is moving you forward, you are growing spiritually; you know more than you ever knew before. God has given you his word and his work in Salmo will not be stopped. There will never again be a need for a false persona.

We are well under way building a culture of honor. We as a congregation will never be in the place of playing church or being shallow plastic people. God has grabbed ahold of this place and has truly astonishing plans for you.

How many people here want to be unbelieving believers; wherein, we say we know the word of God but we simply don't practice it...

See my point... no one!

I declare to Satan this morning, that our church has gotten God's message. I have seen and heard the difference out of your mouths. Reading and prayer become obvious in our speech patterns and in how we communicate with one another.

It is inevitable that we will be declaring the word of God, simply because... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

## Backlash

Who here this morning has experienced more attacks from the enemy? Could it be that it is because as we pursue God, we are actually making the adversary nervous? Is he scared because a little church in Salmo actually gets it? The answer is YES.

We are not finished. We are retaking the land. ...And we have only started. Now the weapons of our warfare are not man made, but are mighty to the tearing down of strongholds. After all, The kingdom of God is comprised of righteousness, peace and joy. We as a church are bringing our thoughts captive to the mind of Christ. (Cf. Rom 14:17 & 2 Cor.10:4,5)

Now when he attacks us, we need to declare his word aloud with our lips...

Do you know what I say when I come under attack? I go back to Isaiah 54:1 and I replace the you in the scripture with me as I claim it.. "No weapon formed against (you) me shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against (you) me in judgment You shall condemn.

He goes on to say: "This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord."

Now I have read the end of the book, and God has already declared that we have won the battle. What we need to do is **simply choose** to walk it out in accordance with his will.

Now why is Jubilee relevant to us specifically as the new Israel?

- The land sold was to be returned to its original owner free and clear of debt and could be redeemed only by the original owner or a blood relative
- A Slave could be redeemed by himself or a blood relative but on Jubilee he was automatically set free without debt or obligation
- All financial debts were forgiven or erased
- The land was allowed to rest to replenish itself
- Trust Jesus for our provision in the year
- Began on Day of Atonement. Declared in the New-Year. It is declared by the sound of the Shofar horn; which was symbolic of the atonement of God and the word of God.

This is a foreshadowing of Christ...

## What is the New Testament meaning of the Jubilee?

The year of Jubilee was to begin at Yom Kippur. Also called the Day of Atonement

(Yom – means Day in Hebrew and Kippur means to Atone.)

Jesus fulfills the year of Jubilee. Think of Jubilee when Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 here in Luke 4:18...

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

Jesus also said in John 14:12

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”*

### **What does the acceptable year of the Lord mean?**

It is the year in which the full plan and purpose of God is accomplished. It is not a literal year but the full cycle of restoration in God’s plan of redemption. Jesus came and preached on this and in fact is what he came to accomplish. We need to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

In his name, let us preach his good news to the poor, let us bring Jesus to the broken hearted, Let us proclaim liberty and set those captive to strongholds and bondage free through the power of his name, Let us bring his healing to the sick, the lame, and the blind. I say: “Bring on the Jubilee!”

This is the time of the Lord’s favor...

- God provided Jubilee to set the captives free
- Jesus came and brought and fulfilled the promise to bring us Jubilee in order to set all mankind free. He bought us back. He paid our debts.
- Jesus has empowered us his children so that he can heal our land, return it to us and set us free today

What is the end-time meaning for us about the year of Jubilee that we can look forward too?

- We are captive to mortality – We are set free to eternal life
- We struggle for our existence – We trust Jesus for our eternal provision
- We work to bring in his harvest – Jesus gathers the harvest to himself

We his people; will be his servants, doing his will to help people overcome strongholds in their lives. We will be creating relationships and connecting with people who feel lost and alone. We will bring the love of Jesus to a lost and hurting world. We will meet people's needs in a real and practical way. We will show them Jesus.

As the New Israel who will soon come forth from Jubilee, I offer this scripture from Isaiah 52:1-3

Awake, awake, Zion,  
clothe yourself with strength!  
Put on your garments of splendor,  
Jerusalem, the holy city.  
The uncircumcised and defiled  
will not enter you again.  
Shake off your dust;  
rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.  
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,  
Daughter Zion, now a captive.  
For this is what the Lord says:  
"You were sold for nothing,  
and without money you will be redeemed."

Now you have been redeemed by Christ so we need to embrace with all our hearts

Isaiah 60:1-3

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

We need to prepare for the harvest... It is coming!

If you can see the vision... Can I get an AMEN?

*Prayer*