

SRMBC Family Bible Study
“I Can Only Imagine” - Discovering the Father’s Love
September 19, 2018
Reverend Thomas A. Keys, Pastor

Week 3 – Imagine Redemption – Luke 4:16 – 21

This week, we will be continuing with our I Can Only imagine Bible Study. This week we will watch and discuss a short video, read through a passage of Scripture from one of the gospels and discuss what the Biblical theme of redemption.

Group Discussion

Can you think of a favorite movie, novel or other story that has a redemption aspect in it? Describe what/who was set free, given a second chance or restored to new life.

War Room

Tony is away on a business trip but is having dinner with a beautiful woman who invites him back to her apartment. Just as he is about to leave with her, he becomes nauseous and runs to the bathroom to throw up.

Shortly afterward, Tony is fired for stealing drug samples. Realizing he has hit rock bottom, he rededicates his life to God. Unknown to Elizabeth and Danielle, he has been keeping several samples for himself. He now realizes that he has to return them, even though it could potentially send him to prison. Tony's former boss is moved by his willingness to admit his wrongdoing and make amends, and decides not to press charges.

Read Luke 4:16 – 21

This week’s video is about 9 minutes, and then we’ll discuss. EPISODE 3: Imagine Redemption.

While working on the truck, Arthur says to Bart, “I figured out why you like junk, why you like to fix things, you make something out of nothing all the time. They got a word for that, What’s that word.” And Bart responds. “Redemption.”

1. How would you describe redemption in your own words? What sort of redemptions did Arthur and Bart Experience?

Redemption – Being restored from prison, danger, damage by the act or expense of someone else

Arthur	Bart
All of his sin and past forgiven	The Bitterness toward his father gone
His mind, emotions were restored	He was able to forgive his father
Relationship with Christ and the church	He was able to put the past behind him/them
Being a Father/provider for his son	Renewed view for pursuing his dreams/ambitions
Restored relationship with his son	Restored relationship with His Father

2. How have you experienced redemption personally? When have you had a redeeming moment in your life?

- In the 1st Desert Storm, we were scheduled to attack an Iraqi airport, but right before moving out – we got the Word of the “Cease – Fire”
- In 1992, at a church near Ft Campbell KY, I accepted Christ at a revival – and I have never been the same. My war with and against God was over

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight (Col. 1:21 -22)

3. In Luke 4, Jesus said that He came to set prisoners free. Do you consider yourself a prisoner of sin that has been set free on a daily basis? What reminds you or makes you forget?

I know I am free – from sin and its penalty – Free to worship, serve and to live in and for Christ.

Reminders Of My Freedom

- The Word Of God
- The Spirit Of God
- The Church Of God
- The Change In My Life

Things That Make Me/Us Forget My Freedom

- The Trials Of Life
- The Enemy (The Devil)
- The World's Influence And Temptation
- My Own Sins And Short Comings

“Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36)

Jim Corley met his friend, Alex, at the dealership where Alex worked. “Jim, I feel like a hypocrite every time I go to church because I fail to live for Christ so often.” “Alex, what do you call this part of the dealership?” Jim asked, nodding to the area outside his cubicle. “You mean the showroom?”

“Yes. And what’s behind the showroom, past the parts counter? “The service department,” Alex said confidently. “What if I told you I didn’t want to bring my car to the service department because it was running rough,” Jim asked. “That would be crazy! That’s the whole point of service departments—to fix cars that aren’t running right.”

“You’re absolutely right,” Jim replied. “Now, let’s get back to our initial conversation. Instead of thinking of church as a showroom where image is everything, start thinking of it as God’s service department. Helping people get back in running order with God is what the church is all about.

4. Think about the redemption you have in Christ. What does it look like to live in Christ's freedom?

Key Points

- Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the ability to do what we ought.
- Without Christ, we are slaves to sin, unable to do what is right.
- Christ's death on the Cross set us free from the penalty and power of sin.

What Freedom in Christ Looks Like

- **Christians Are Free From Condemnation** – Everyone is guilty of sin (Rom. 3:23) and thus deserving of condemnation. But Jesus accepted the condemnation on our behalf. (Gal. 3:13; Rom 8:1).
- **Christians Are Free From Having To Be “Good Enough” For Heaven** - The Bible exposes our faults, even when we are at our best. Yet, Christ, kept the Law so that by grace He makes our way into heaven (Rom 10:4; Eph. 2:8 – 9).
- **Christians Are Free From Fear** - We obey God because we are grateful for His great love for us. We follow God's Law primarily because of our love for Him (1 John 4:19).

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, “How can I get the air out of this glass?” One man shouted, “Suck it out with a pump!” Moody replied, “That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass.” After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. “There,” he said, “all the air is now removed.” He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by “sucking out a sin here and there,” but by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

5. How would reflecting on your redemption affect what you would do tomorrow?

- Affects My Priorities (Matt 6:33; Phil 3:9)
- Affects My Perspectives (II Cor 5:16; Phil 4:8)
- Affects My Purpose (Prov. 3:5 – 6; I Tim 2:4)
- Affects My Perception (Self, Others; John 1:12 I Tim 2:4)
- Affect My Passions (Gal 5:22 – 25)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Although we may not have stories like Bart, we can identify with the courage it took to step out in faithfulness with his music, despite not knowing how he'd provide for his family

6. How has your redemption changed your perspective on your unique calling?

- Experiencing my own personal redemption in Christ is so wonderful – that I want to see others freed as well.
- Jesus' passion in providing our Salvation by going to the Cross – shows me the importance of Redeeming others to God.

- Even the redemption of one person, brings great joy to God and the angels in heaven (Luke 15:7)
7. It is a great privilege to join Jesus in the ministry of redemption How do you think your story of change – your own journey of faith – could encourage and challenge others?
- It can let them know if God can change me He can change anybody.
 - My story can let people know that God demonstrated through Jesus Christ His great love and forgiveness no matter what we've done.
 - My story can challenge people to challenge people to trust in the Redemptive power and promise of God in Christ – regardless of our circumstances
8. How do you think God is inviting you to share that story with others?
- Witnessing to my neighbors, family and people I meet
 - Telling others about our Church - Solid Rock (Where the love of Christ is...)
 - Preaching/Teaching the Gospel – the Word of God.
 - Posting my testimony on Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc.)

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the many ways you have redeemed us – set us free from sin and spiritual death, and secured our salvation. Help us fully embrace the redemption you have secured for us. May we be able to one day tell our story of change to others. We trust You Lord. In Jesus name. Amen.