**Be Free (1/14/24) Discussion Questions**

**Summary:** To appreciate the good news of all we can have in Christ, we have to understand the bad news of our condition before Jesus saved us. Apart from Jesus, people are in Adam: blind, lost, enslaved and dead in their sins. Only in Christ can we receive these incredible gospel gifts: clarity, guidance, freedom and life. Come be reminded what we were saved *from* and rejoice in the freedom Jesus won for us!

**Be Free**

Romans 8:1-4

The Bad News:

* Apart from Jesus, people are in Adam:

“Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned… By the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners.” Rom. 5:12,19

* Blind - unable to See the truth (2 Cor. 4:4; Rom. 1:21)
* Lost - unable to Find God (Rom. 3:11; Titus 3:3)
* Slaves - unable to consistently Do what’s right (Jn. 8:34; Rom. 1:28-29)
* Dead - unable to Change spiritually (Eph. 2:1; James 1:14-15)

“As *in Adam* all die so also *in Christ* shall all be made alive.” 1 Cor. 15:22

The Good News:

* In Jesus, you can have:
  + Clarity - understanding of the Truth (2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Cor. 2:10,12, 14-16)
  + Direction - constant internal Guidance (John. 14:26; 16:13; Rom. 8:9-10)
  + Freedom - from the Controlling power of sin (Rom. 8:9-10)
  + Life - new Desires and ability to serve God (Rom. 8:11)

“You, however, are not in the flesh but *in the Spirit*, if in fact *the Spirit of God* dwells in you. Anyone who does not have *the Spirit of Christ* does not belong to him. But if *Christ is in you*, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” Romans 8:9-11

**Get Started:**

1. Have you ever been ***stuck*** somewhere - traffic on I-4, a stopped elevator, a broken down car, a dead end job or worse? How did that feel? How did it work out?
2. Imagine being really trapped, as a prisoner of war or hostage in Israel. How must that feel?

**Dig In:** Read Romans 8:1-4

1. What stands out to you in this passage? (Yes, it’s the same one as last week!)
2. What is “the law of sin and death”? (See Titus 3:3; Eph. 2:1-3 and John 8:34)
3. What is “the law of the Spirit of life”? (See Gal. 5:1; John 8:31-36; Rom. 6:20-23)
4. How does this understanding of slavery and freedom help you appreciate “what God has done” (Rom. 8:3) and why He did it (Rom. 8:4)?

**Move Forward:**

1. Take 3 minutes (leader, set a timer) and everyone ask God to speak to you right now through this short passage (Rom. 8:1-4). Do a “S.O.S.” Ask the Lord what He wants to SAY to you right now. How does He want you to OBEY this passage? Who could you SHARE this with?
2. Did the Holy Spirit show you something or speak to you through this passage? (It’s Ok if you didn’t sense or hear anything specific - this may be a new exercise for some of us!)
3. Take a few minutes to pray together and give thanks for all Jesus accomplished for us! And pray for your blind, lost, enslaved, dead friends that God the Father would open their eyes, convict them of sin and draw them to Jesus who can give them spiritual life.