

Freedom in Jesus

Text: Gospel of Luke 4:12–30

Title: The Freedom Only Jesus Can Give

Today we celebrate Freedom. We celebrate the 250th year of American Liberty!

The New Colossus

Colossus - a statue of gigantic size and proportions

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"^[12]



Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was the French sculptor who designed the Statue of Liberty, officially titled Liberty Enlightening the World.

In 1871, Bartholdi made his first trip to the United States, where he pitched the idea of a massive statue gifted from the French to the Americans in honor of the centennial of American independence.

Paul Auster wrote, "Bartholdi's gigantic effigy was originally intended as a monument to the principles of international republicanism, but 'The New Colossus' reinvented the statue's purpose, turning Liberty into a welcoming mother, a symbol of hope to the outcasts and downtrodden of the world."

John T. Cunningham wrote, "The Statue of Liberty was not conceived and sculpted as a symbol of immigration, but it quickly became so as immigrant ships passed under the torch and the shining face, heading toward Ellis Island. However, it was Emily Lazarus's poem that permanently stamped on Miss Liberty the role of unofficial greeter of incoming immigrants."

More than 2 million Jewish people from eastern Europe immigrated through Ellis Island from 1880 - 1924. New York City is home to more than 2.18 million Jews which is 30% of the 6+ million Jewish people who live in the United States.

Sidenote: How did Mamdani get elected to be the Mayor of the city with the largest population of Jewish people in the United States? What is God doing?

Jeremiah 30:3 (NASB)

3 For behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.' The LORD says, 'I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers and they shall possess it.'"

Isaiah 11:12 (NASB)

12 And He will lift up a standard for the nations

And assemble the banished ones of Israel,

And will gather the dispersed of Judah

From the four corners of the earth.

Ezekiel 36:24 (NASB)

24 For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

Amos 9:14-15 (NASB)

14 “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel,
And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them;
They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine,
And make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 “I will also plant them on their land,
And they will not again be rooted out from their land
Which I have given them,”
Says the LORD your God.

Zephaniah 3:20 (NASB)

20 “At that time I will bring you in,
Even at the time when I gather you together;
Indeed, I will give you renown and praise
Among all the peoples of the earth,
When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,”
Says the LORD.

Ezekiel 37:21-22 (NASB)

21 Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.

Luke 4: 14-30

Introduction

- Freedom is one of humanity’s greatest desires.
- People seek freedom through wealth, success, pleasure, or independence, yet often remain enslaved by fear, guilt, addiction, or sin.
- In Luke 4, Jesus announces His mission by reading from Isaiah: He came to proclaim freedom.
- The question is not whether we want freedom, but whether we will receive the freedom Jesus offers.

I. Freedom Is Found in Jesus’ (Luke 4:14–21)

“He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives.”

A. Jesus came empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- His ministry was God’s plan from the beginning.
- He came with divine authority.

B. Jesus came to free people spiritually.

He proclaimed:

- Good news to the poor.
- Freedom for captives.
- Recovery of sight for the blind.
- Freedom for the oppressed.
- The year of the Lord’s favor.

C. Jesus declared the prophecy fulfilled.

- The promised Deliverer had arrived.
- Freedom was no longer a promise—it was present in Christ.

Application

- Jesus still offers freedom today.
- No chain is stronger than His power to save.

II. Freedom Requires Faith (Luke 4:22–27)

A. The people admired Jesus but did not trust Him.

- They knew His family.
- Familiarity kept them from faith.
- Familiarity breeds contempt

B. Jesus exposed their unbelief.

- They wanted miracles without surrender.
- They desired blessings without repentance.

C. God's freedom is available to all who believe.

Examples:

- The widow of Zarephath.
- Naaman the Syrian.

Both experienced God's grace because they responded in faith.

Application

- Church attendance does not guarantee spiritual freedom.
- Freedom begins when we trust Christ personally.

III. Freedom Is Often Rejected (Luke 4:28–30)

A. The truth offended the people.

- They became angry when confronted with their unbelief.

B. They rejected the One who came to free them.

- Instead of receiving Christ, they attempted to kill Him.

C. Jesus continued His mission.

- God's plan could not be stopped.
- The offer of freedom continued beyond Nazareth.

Application

- Many reject Jesus because His freedom requires repentance and surrender.
- Christ still invites people to receive His grace today.

Living in Christ's Freedom

Because Jesus has set us free, we are called to:

1. **Live free from the guilt of sin** through His forgiveness.
2. **Live free from the power of sin** by walking in the Holy Spirit.
3. **Live free from fear** because we belong to God.
4. **Live free to serve others** in love, rather than serving ourselves.
5. **Share the message of freedom** with those who remain spiritually captive.

Conclusion

Jesus did not come merely to improve our circumstances—He came to transform our hearts. His freedom is greater than political liberty or personal independence. It is freedom from sin, condemnation, shame, and spiritual bondage.

The people of Nazareth stood face to face with the Liberator, yet many rejected Him because they refused to believe.

Today, the same invitation remains:

- Will you receive the freedom Christ offers?
- Will you trust Him as your Savior and Lord?
- Will you live each day in the freedom He has won for you?

Invitation

Jesus still proclaims “good news to the poor” and “liberty to the captives.” Whatever holds you captive—sin, fear, guilt, bitterness, or despair—He has the power to set you free. Receive Him in faith, walk in His freedom, and become an instrument of freedom for others through the gospel.