

Introduction:

- *"But the moment one turns to the Lord with an open heart, the veil is lifted and they see. Now, the "Lord" I'm referring to is the Holy Spirit, and wherever he is Lord, there is freedom."* (2 Corinthians 3:16-17, TPT)
- We have been in this series: Jesus is Lord
 - Making His priorities our priorities.
 - Brokenness, surrender, Submission.
 - The Alabaster must be broken for the oil to be poured out.
 - Last week - we looked at the subjects of sin. Bottom line:
- Jesus is Lord when we are fully submitted to Him, when we live in surrender to Him and when we begin looking more and more like Him.
- "Your Church is Too Safe." March 2012 Christianity Today. Historian Daniel Boorstin documents a momentous shift that occurred in North America in the nineteenth century: we stopped calling people who went on trips travelers and started calling them tourists. **Traveler, one definition means** "one who travails." He labors, suffers, endures...To get there, he immerses himself in a culture, learns the language and customs, lives with the locals, imitates the dress, eats what's set before him. He takes risks, some enormous, and makes sacrifices, some extravagant. He has tight scrapes and narrow escapes. He is gone a long time. If ever he returns, he returns forever altered **A tourist**, not so. Tourist means, literally, "one who goes in circles." He's just taking an exotic detour home. He's only passing through, sampling wares, acquiring souvenirs... He retreats each night to what's safe and familiar. He picks up a word here, a phrase there, but the language, and the world it's embedded in, remains opaque and cryptic, and vaguely menacing. He spectates and consumes. He returns to where he's come from with an album of photos, a few mementos, and a cheap hat. He's happy to be back. He declares there's no place like home. We've made a similar shift in the church. At some point we stopped calling Christians disciples and started calling them believers. **A disciple is one who follows and imitates Jesus.** He loses his life in order to find it. He dives into the language and culture of Christ until His Word and His world reshape his, redefines him, change inside out how he sees and thinks and dreams and, finally, lives A believer, not so. He holds certain beliefs, but how deep down these go depends on the weather or his mood. He can get defensive, sometimes intensely so, about his beliefs, but in his honest moments he wonders why they've made such little difference You can't be a disciple without being a believer. But—here's the rub—you can be a believer and not a disciple. You can say all the right things, think all the right things, believe all the right things, do all the right things, and still not follow and imitate Jesus. This is why Jesus must be Lord of our lives. He make us travelers of the Kingdom and not tourists returning to the same place your began.
- When He is Lord, we experience freedom, transformation and a Kingdom expressive life.

I. Where He Is Lord There Is Freedom 2Cor 3:16-17

- A. The ministry of the Spirit is the ministry of the Lord. *"clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."* (2 Corinthians 3:3, NKJV) "Spirit of Christ" Ro 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11

1. The letter kills but the Spirit gives life.
- B. When we turn to the Lord the veil is taken away. *"But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."* (2 Corinthians 3:16, NLT) Meaning we see and experience truth. This passage refers back to Exodus 34.
 1. When Moses goes into to speak to God. The veil that he wore was taken off. 34:29-25.
 2. When Moses spoke with the people he put the veil on.
 3. When we turn to Christ the veil is taken away and we experience who He is.
 - a) We see! The light comes on! No more darkness.
 - b) We experience life! No longer fear and death.
 - c) We experience power and hear the voice of the Spirit saying we are sons of God. Romans 8:16.
- C. When He becomes Lord of our lives we experience Freedom!
 1. Freedom - liberation from being slaves to sin. Romans 6
 2. Freedom from death in Christ's resurrection.
 3. Freedom from: Sin has to do with bondage to torment.
 - a) sin's bondage - IE. Nicodemus - freedom from religious bondage. Zacchaeus - freedom from greed, fear of lack, selfishness. Woman at the well- Freedom from moral bondage.
 - b) sin's punishment -
 - c) sin's penalty - death vs. everlasting life! Jn 3:16
 - d) *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* (Matthew 25:46, NKJV)
- D. When He is Lord there is freedom. The Holy Spirit/the Spirit of Christ does three things
 1. Conviction (John 16:8) *"And when he is come, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."* Conviction provides a way of escape.
 2. Instruction: (John 14:26) *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*
 3. Consolation: (Acts 9:31) *"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."*
 4. All to get us looking more like Jesus!

II. Where He Is Lord There Is Transformation 2 Cor 3:18

- A. Where He is Lord the veil is lifted and... *"So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."* (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT) and we become more like Him.
 1. We see His glory...and anything that is not of God has to go. Light and darkness cannot cohabit.
 2. The Spirit's work thus makes us more like Him.
- B. Where He is Lord There is transformation.

1. μεταμορφουμθα - metamorphoumetha - metamorphosis. Complete and total change. IE caterpillar becomes a butterfly. Total change.
 - a) The word metamorphoo means to change the essential form or nature of something. It describes a change on the outside that originates from a change on the inside. It is not a change in behavior it is a change in 'our nature.'
 - b) This change/transformation now makes God visible.
 2. Transformed means change! This change is not something we do but something that is done to us. The passive tense is what tells us this.
 - a) We can get stuck if we aren't careful and not fully change.
 - b) We can be satisfied with the progress we have made and stop.
 3. The objective of transformation is threefold:
 - a) To become more like Jesus. *'more and more like Him.'* vs. 18
 - b) To behold His glory by being in His presence. IE. Moses
 - c) To bring Him glory
- C. Other examples:
1. Jesus - Mt 17:2; Mk 9:2. Jesus is transfigured/transformed.
 2. Ro 12:2 *"be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* Each time we change, and we let Jesus be Lord in our lives, more light increases. Where there is more light there is more expression of our faith.

III. Where He Is Lord There Is Expression 2 Cor 4: 1-ff

- A. New Covenant Ministry 4:1; 3:6 He has enabled us... God has given us this new ministry!
1. Diakoneo - to wait tables, to serve. Translated as service, work, ministry.
 2. The only path to greatness for Christians is to become servant and even slaves to all. 4:5 *we ourselves are your slaves for Christ sake.*
 3. The greatest ministry of a christian is service to the King and to His people. It is not consuming but giving yourself away. *"And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the **work** assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God."* (Acts 20:22-24, NLT)
 4. When Jesus becomes Lord of your life, ministry/service to others becomes an expression of His Lordship. Yes, you can still be an engineer, businessman, teacher etc. but ministry marks your life.
- B. Another Kingdom expression of Jesus' Lordship in your life is Integrity. *"We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this."* (2 Corinthians 4:2, NLT)
1. Reject shameful deeds embrace truth.
 2. Truth denotes a reality that is firm, binding, and solid. Having certainty!
 - a) *"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:32, NLT)
 - b) *"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36, NLT) Jn 14:6 I am the Truth!

- c) "But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the Lord must turn away from evil.'" (2 Timothy 2:19, NLT)
 - d) The more we are transformed the more integrity others see in us. Our lives become a Kingdom expression.
- C. Preaching 4:5; 3:6
- 1. κερῖσσο - To announce, to declare, to make known.
 - 2. The more you become like Jesus the less you talk about yourself and the more you talk about Him.
 - 3. When He is Lord of your life, your expression of the Kingdom become more vocal and expressive. Jesus is Savior, Healer, Deliverer etc.
- D. Supernatural 4:10
- 1. We have this treasure in earthen/clay vessels simply to show that we are not 'gods' but that God is in us.
 - 2. Because God is in us we do not quit!

Conclusion:

- Where Jesus is Lord there is freedom, transformation and expression!