



Fighting For What Jesus Is For: Week Four—"For The Captive"

CONNECT: Have you ever done something and afterwards asked yourself, "How did I end up here?"

GROW:

1. **Read Luke 8:26-39.** What descriptive details do we get of this man? (v27, 29) How do you picture him in your mind? What must his daily life have been like?
2. He's the last person most people would have approached, yet Jesus walks straight toward the graveyard. If you were one of the disciples, would you have questioned, grumbled, complained, or doubted?
3. Jon used a laundry basket to help illustrate different stages of captivity: *Sin* → *Shame* → *Sadness* → *Seclusion*. Have you experienced that progression? If willing, share your story.
4. Sin involves any decision where we tell God we don't think He knows what's best for us. How would your mindset change if you realized God isn't trying to ruin your fun but He actually wanted your best and to keep you from pain?
5. Jesus delivers the man, yet the townspeople tell Jesus to leave. Why do you think they did that? What might be their reasons?
6. Whether it's the bondage of shame, the prison of insecurity, the dungeon of regret, the handcuffs of fear—and so many other forms of captivity—we *don't conquer what we don't confront*. Is there anything you might be doing, emotionally or physically, to escape from reality? How is that pushing you further away from God and the healing you desperately need?
7. **Read Isaiah 43:2.** It can be scary to confront the ugly stuff you've hidden in your head and heart, but God promises to help you. What sinful tendencies or thinking do you sense God wants to help you with today?
 - Are you enduring life or enjoying life? Are you always in a hurry? Are you easily annoyed or irritated by others? Are you worried about things you can't control? Are you jealous of someone else's life or success?
8. The greatest motivating force for change is God's love for us. Jesus loves you enough to confront you with truth and comfort you with grace. Instead of sin leading to captivity, Jesus offers *salvation* and *sanctification*! How have you seen the Holy Spirit change your appetites from unholy behaviors to holy behaviors?

PRAY: Spend your prayer time listing as many things as you can to thank God for. Think about not only what He's done, but also who He is, and how He treats us. Express your gratitude for the comprehensive freedom that only He can provide.

NEXT: Jon encouraged us to put a red bandana somewhere as a reminder of what Jesus has rescued us from. But also to remind you that God puts people in your path who are *enduring* life instead of *enjoying* life. Our role is to be a clear picture of God's love and how grace and truth have us set free from the shame, sadness, and seclusion that sin creates.