

**CAPTURING THE CAPTIVES
WITH CHRIST'S LOVE**

TEXT:

Ephesians 4:8: Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Context:

Deuteronomy 21:10-13:

¹⁰ When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the LORD thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive,

¹¹ And seest among the captives a beautiful woman, and hast a desire unto her, that thou wouldest have her to thy wife;

¹² Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house, and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails;

¹³ And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

Christ Jesus, the Mighty Warrior, spoiled principalities, Kingdoms. He invaded the devil's domain to lead out the bound captive, precious souls.

Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Oh, the depths to which Jesus will go to rescue a soul!

Oh, the depths to which Jesus will go to rescue a soul! Oh, the darkness He must penetrate to take miserable, blinded, poor, destitute humanity to be His lovely Bride. He takes the vilest, to make them the sweetest saints; yes, the hard-hearted, God hating, Christ-cursers, sin-lovers, pleasure-seekers.

And Jesus bestows on them:

- **His mighty workmanship of conversion,**
- **Regeneration, and**
- **Transformation,**
- **Into a new creature.**

No longer do they turn His Glory into shame or use His Holy Day for gain, and shun His blessed Word.

Why would He seek and woo and love and draw devil-bound souls? Because He loves us, wants us, and wills to choose a Bride all glorious within, by His own handiwork. **The Most High God loves to set captives free.** He rejoices as a mighty man, to run a race, in opening prison houses to them that are bound.

From the ranks of His foes, Jesus goes.

Deuteronomy 21:10: When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the LORD thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive,

Samson, Boaz, Joseph and Solomon snatched captive, despised, wicked Gentiles out of the devil's grip and bought them to His Banqueting House. His Banner over me is Love. He chooses us, woos us to Himself by the Gospel of His Cross. His choice is:

- **Whosoever is willing to be led,**
- **Willing to be redeemed, and**
- **Willing to be transformed.**



In the following verses in Deuteronomy, the bride was brought out of her old associates to a

new house, surrounded by new friends. There is always room in Christ's household for those who have been enemies of the Cross but have been captured by love – brought to His Church.

Deuteronomy 21:12-13:

¹² Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house, and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails;

¹³ And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

NOW THE SANCTIFYING WORK:

- Shaves her head
- Pares her nails
- Old allurements cut off
- Making room for new beauty in holiness of the Holy Ghost

Get rid of the worldly look by a positive mark of separation. The trademarks of the world and sin must disappear. Old things are passed away. Behold all things are become new. No half-hearted, partial consecration will ever be successful. God's new standard for the liberated souls of satan's prison house cannot be achieved by reform, or mere Bible catechism. Paul said in

Galatians 6:14: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Only this can put backbone into a saint – the Bride - and distinction into Christ's Church. All worldly talent, attractions, personality, know-how, methods – have no place in God's Kingdom or His House - the Church. In their stead is the anointing of the Spirit.

We need also the sword of the Spirit to sever all pride, clever plans, and schemes and shrewdness of the human heart. There is no room for put-ons for they but lead back into captivity. They provide a roosting place for the devil. A bargaining place for satan to lead one into captivity at satan's own will.

2 Timothy 2:25: In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

NEXT – IS THE CHANGE OF RAIMENT

Put off robes, the clothes of her captivity. Free from robes of self-righteousness, worldly apparel, AND now with the **Spirit's wedding garment, the robe of righteousness.**

Matthew 22: 8-14:

⁸ Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

⁹ Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

¹⁰ So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

¹¹ And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

¹² And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

¹³ Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.



The Prodigal received a change of raiment.



Luke 15: 20-22: And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

²¹ And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more

worthy to be called thy son.

²² But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

SPIRITUAL WARDROBE

A Christian looks and dresses different from the world seen in:

Colossians 3:8-14:

⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;



¹⁰

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the Image of Him that created him:

¹¹

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Revelation 7:14: *And I said unto Him, Sir, thou knowest. And He said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.*

Revelation 13:12-14:

¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

NEXT – WEANED FROM OLD RELATIONSHIPS

Say a final “goodbye” to the old crowd, the old life. That’s the only way to enjoy the Lord’s Presence.

2 Corinthians 6:17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

To be an out-and-out Christian is to come out from among them.

Oh, how happy the Lord will make the soul that comes all the way clean. Hold no reserves. Leave no ties to the world. Even you can tell if your companion or sweetheart loves you with reservations.

Consider that Jesus has captured us from the devil, from this unfriendly world which is satan’s tool – bait – temptress; to seat us with Him in His eternal Kingdom as His Bride.

The Rewarding Day is coming, to be forever with the Lord. Will you answer the call as Abraham’s servant gives it to Rebecca’s household?

Note: Moses sets forth a genuine Christian by the following:

- **Acted upon his own by rejecting worldly honor**
- **Chose sides with God’s people**
- **Renounced pleasures of sin**
- **Esteemed the reproach of Christ ... tells how much also**
- **Firm understanding and faith in future rewards – punishment**
- **Fearless obedience to God’s Word, regardless to opposition of wife and Pharaoh.**
- **Spiritual eyes opened to see the invisible**

Moses saw miracles of God's power the world can't duplicate. God wanted to teach and to deal with him, alone, and called him apart before he saw the burning bush.

**God's Presence
in the heart of the redeemed
changes our tastes
for the light, trashy,
temporal things of this life.**



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