

Practicing Disciples

Jesus and Freedom

I. A Pathway

Selected
Study/learn
Train
Practice
Stop practicing
Reward

II. Jesus and Freedom (our pattern)

A. God is a good God

Acts 10:37-38 (NIV)

³⁷ You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how **he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil**, because God was with him.

John 3:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For **no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.**"

Luke 13:10-17 (NIV)

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. . . . ¹⁵ The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? ¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years**, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" ¹⁷ When he said this, **all his opponents were humiliated**, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

B. Satan and limits

C. Opposition

Matthew 15:10-16 (NIV)

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" ¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "**Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?**" ¹³ He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.

D. Freedom "to do"

John 8:36-41 (NIV)

³⁶ **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.** ³⁷ I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and **you do what you have heard from your father.** ³⁹ "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, **then you would do the things Abraham did.** ⁴⁰ As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ **You are doing the things your own father does.** "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

II. Practitioners

A. Forgiveness

Mark 11:25 (NIV)

²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Luke 6:37-38 (NIV)

Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

B. Repentance

Matthew 21:31-32 (NIV)

"I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, **you did not repent and believe him.**

Mark 1:14-15 (NIV)

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. **Repent and believe** the good news!"

C. Miracles (thanksgiving)

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

John 9:25 (NIV)

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I offer myself to you without reservation. I yield my life to your purposes. In Christ I have experienced forgiveness, freedom and deliverance. Holy Spirit continue to guide me into the fullness of my salvation. May my eyes be open and my heart receptive to your instruction. Set me free from anything which separates me from God's best. I choose to turn away from ungodliness and embrace the truth. May Jesus be glorified through my life, it is in His name I pray, amen.