

Unlocking Freedom In Your Life, Part 5: Free To Do Right by Your Family

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Unlocking Freedom In Your Life**
- Recap: Three Steps in the Path to Freedom from **John 8:31-32**.
 - Step One: Hold to Jesus' Teachings.
 - Step Two: Know the Truth. This is talking about a knowledge that comes from experience!
 - Step Three: The Truth Sets You Free! As you learn you get more and more free!
- This week: Happy Mother's Day! Let's tie this sermon in to Mother's Day.
 - **Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:1-3**. Go ahead and do this!
 - Mom and Dad, give your kids something to work with, ok? The responsibility goes both ways.
 - **Ephesians 6:4** applies to mothers and fathers. You are charged with being spiritual leaders. Go ahead and do that and see what happens!!
- Today, we are going to look at Mary's experience with being the mother of Jesus.
 - As we look at specific events we will: One, be able to relate. Two, draw spiritual parallels.
- The Angel's greeting and an unplanned pregnancy: **Luke 1:26-38**.
 - Think of the responsibility she must have felt!
 - If you are a parent, do you remember holding your child in your hands for the first time? What an awesome responsibility parenting is!!
 - Moms and Dads, you are raising someone chosen by God. Someone Jesus died for. Someone God has an eternal plan for.
- When Jesus was 12 years old: **Luke 2:41-52**.
 - Raising kids has its challenges!! Don't let that discourage you.
 - Mary sounded scared and hurt in v48.
 - How easy of a child to raise are you for God? Do you give God lots of trouble?
 - **Ephesians 4:29-32** (v30 do not grieve the Holy Spirit)
- When Jesus is getting his start in life: **John 2:1-11**.
 - Notice there is no Joseph mentioned. He is gone. Probably deceased. ☹
 - The people were looking to Mary, not Jesus. She gave Jesus his first break.
 - We want to set our kids up for success and give them opportunities.
 - It is the parents' responsibility to "privilege" their children!
 - Your Heavenly Father is like that with you. He prepares you and opens doors. Go through!
- Did Jesus get too busy for Mary? **Luke 8:19-21**.
 - I don't know the back story, but this couldn't have felt good for Mary.
 - They grow up fast don't they! When they become independent it's a mixed blessing. Live every single moment because it doesn't last forever!
 - I don't care how busy you are; don't lose touch with Mom if she is still alive!
 - Don't lose touch with your Heavenly Father either!!
- At the cross. **John 19:25-27**.
 - Mary would have been about 50 years old that day. No husband. Watching her son's last hours. She lived a life of amazing blessing and of great pain.
 - Jesus knew he had to take care of his mother after he was gone. Thanks John.
 - There comes a time for a child to pay back the love and sacrifice of their parents.
 - Honor your father and mother!! Honor your Heavenly Father as well!
- There is a special bond between parent and child.
 - Sometimes that relationship is strained. Be thankful for what you can be thankful for.
 - We have a Father in Heaven who loves us and would do anything for us.
 - Don't be estranged from Him. Honor your Heavenly Father. Don't hurt the family.
 - Today it's time to get it right. Let's pray.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!