

This week, Pastor Andy brings the second installment in his four part series on "Caring for Humanity". Andy points out that God always wants people to be free from bondage to debt. God loves mercy and justice. He even went as far as to make special provision to express that for the entire nation of Israel every fifty years. He ordered his people to count off seven Sabbaths of years, forty-nine years in all. The fiftieth year was to be declared the year of "Jubilee". Every person then, regardless of age or position in society, was to be released from the bondage of debt in that year. All personal debts were canceled during Jubilee. All persons in debtor's prison were set free. All of the lands that had been sold (due to hardship) previously reverted back to their original owners.

In short, all of Israel was proclaimed free of debt. It is not surprising then when you discover that Jesus' life on earth was spent doing the same things, setting people free to live as God intended for them to live. Those who followed Him in the early church gave to the poor and valued the needs of others above their own. They counted their riches as being stored in heaven and gave of their goods to others here. They refused to be bound by the material things that the world pursues. They sought to "owe no man" so that they could be free to do whatever God told them to do. In other words, rather than being owned by their things, they used their resources to bless others. They themselves were blessed by God in the process. Jesus said that, when they helped meet the needs of another, when they fed the hungry, clothed the naked, healed the sick, or sheltered the homeless, when they gave of themselves to the needy, they were really doing those things to Him.

Are you a "Jubilee Person"? Have you released your grip on the things that bound you? Are you free to give of yourself to someone else without expecting to get anything in return? You can become a living testimony of the goodness of God in a world that tries to buy its freedom and forges chains of greed instead. You can help meet the needs of someone today, if you let God direct you. Are you listening?