

OPENING:

- IF YOU WERE TO CHOOSE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE GOD? WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE?
- LIBERATOR – SYN. SAVIOR; DELIVERER; REDEEMER; RESCUER; FREER
- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE WE WILL REVIEW THE PLAN OF GOD TO BRING COMFORT - RELIEF - OR DELIVERANCE TO HIS CREATION.

GEN. 21:17-18 "...HAGAR, WHAT'S WRONG? DO NOT BE AFRAID! GOD HAS HEARD THE BOY CRYING AS HE LIES THERE. GO TO HIM & COMFORT HIM, FOR I WILL MAKE A GREAT NATION FROM HIS DESCENDANTS."

- **COMFORT** – TO BRING RELIEF TO PAIN & GRIEF, BEREAVEMENT & SORROW
- AS CHRISTIANS WE KNOW THAT GOD HAS ALREADY COME TO THE WORLD, YET HOW MUCH TIME, ENERGY, AND EFFORT ARE WE GIVING TOWARDS BRINGING RELIEF TO OTHERS?
- IF WE ARE HONEST WITH OURSELVES, THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO DO. ESPECIALLY, IF WE BELIEVE THAT THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE GOD'S MESSAGE OF DELIVERANCE.

ISAIAH 5:11-12 'WHAT SORROW FOR THOSE WHO (LOOK TO ENJOY THIS LIFE) GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNING LOOKING FOR A DRINK OF ALCOHOL AND SPEND LONG EVENINGS DRINKING WINE TO MAKE THEMSELVES FLAMING DRUNK. THEY FURNISH WINE & LOVELY MUSIC AT THEIR GRAND PARTIES – LYRE AND HARP, TAMBOURINE AND FLUTE – BUT THEY NEVER THINK ABOUT THE LORD OR NOTICE WHAT HE IS DOING.

KEY POINT:

- AS MUCH AS WE ALL WANT TO LIVE PEACEFUL & COMFORTABLE LIVES IN THIS LIFETIME, WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE FREE AND TO LET THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT FINISH THEIR WORK.

MATTHEW 10:32-35 'EVERYONE WHO ACKNOWLEDGES ME PUBLICLY HERE ON EARTH, I WILL ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. BUT EVERYONE WHO DENIES ME HERE ON EARTH, I WILL ALSO DENY BEFORE MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. DON'T IMAGINE THAT I CAME TO BRING PEACE TO THE EARTH! I CAME NOT TO BRING PEACE, BUT A SWORD. 'I HAVE COME TO SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW.'

- **I HAVE COME TO SEPARATE THE MEN FROM THE BOYS, OR THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS.**

1 COR.12:12 THE HUMAN BODY HAS MANY PARTS, BUT THE MANY PARTS MAKE UP ONE WHOLE BODY. SO, IT IS WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST.

- **YET, THIS IS NOT TRUE OF THE WORLD**

1 COR.12:13 [OF THE BODY OF CHRIST] SOME OF US ARE JEWS, SOME ARE GENTILES, SOME ARE SLAVES, AND SOME ARE FREE. BUT WE HAVE ALL BEEN BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY BY ONE SPIRIT, AND WE ALL SHARE THE SAME SPIRIT.

1 COR.12:26 'IF ONE PART SUFFERS, ALL THE PARTS SUFFER WITH IT, AND IF ONE PART IS HONORED, ALL THE PARTS ARE GLAD.

Q: WHAT WORDS TODAY WOULD DESCRIBE PEOPLE LIVING AS SLAVES?

- ADULT & CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING. FORCED LABOR. DEBT BONDAGE. DOMESTIC SERVITUDE. THE ADDICTED, AND OPPRESSED.
- **FANNIE LOU HAMER [CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER]** – NOBODY'S FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY'S FREE
- **MARGARET MEAD** – NEVER BELIEVE THAT A FEW CARING PEOPLE CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD. FOR, INDEED, THAT'S ALL WHO EVER HAVE.
- WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN – JESUS SENT US/ SET US INTO MOTION

READ 2 COR.5:17-20

17. ...ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO CHRIST HAS BECOME A NEW PERSON. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN!

18. AND ALL OF THIS IS A GIFT FROM GOD WHO BROUGHT US BACK TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST. AND GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS TASK OF RECONCILING PEOPLE TO HIM.

20. SO WE ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS...

ACTS 20:24 ...MY LIFE IS WORTH NOTHING TO ME UNLESS I USE IT FOR FINISHING THE WORK ASSIGNED ME BY THE LORD JESUS – THE WORK OF TELLING OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE WONDERFUL GRACE OF GOD.

CHRISTIANS ARE SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD: TO GO AND TO GIVE COMFORT.

- **MATTHEW 10:5-8** 'JESUS SENT OUT THE 12 APOSTLES WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS: DON'T GO TO THE GENTILES OR THE SAMARITANS, BUT ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL – GOD'S LOST SHEEP. GO AND ANNOUNCE TO THEM THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR. HEAL THE SICK, RAISE THE DEAD, CURE THOSE WITH LEPROSY, AND CAST OUT DEMONS. GIVE AS FREELY AS YOU HAVE RECEIVED.

TONIGHT'S APPLICATION:

- OUR GENERATION NEEDS TO HEAR, SEE, KNOW, & TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE.

CLOSING:

- STOP AND SIT BEFORE OUR MAKER. LET HIM REVEAL HIS HEART FOR YOU.
- FIND THE STRENGTH YOU NEED & THEN GO FIND SOMEONE ELSE IN NEED.
- BEGIN TO GIVE FREELY TO ALL THOSE YOU COME INTO CONTACT WITH.
- BE RECONCILED TO GOD DAILY & SEEK TO RESTORE WHATEVER IS BROKEN.

- HUMANS MAY UNDERSTAND CONFLICT BUT GOD KNOWS COMFORT BEST
- IF YOU NEED COMFORT TODAY, OR TOMORROW. THEN COME TO GOD.
- IF YOU'VE FOUND COMFORT. THEN GO OUT WITH THE JOY & STRENGTH OF GOD SO THAT OTHERS MAY ALSO KNOW & EXPERIENCE RELIEF & FREEDOM THAT IS FOUND IN CHRIST JESUS.