
Ignite

"Dear Lord, bless us with the wonderful power of forgiveness, give us the grace to unconditionally forgive those who have done us wrong. Grant us the strength to let go of all ill-will, the strength to forgive ourselves of our own failings and sins, knowing that You have already forgiven us. Free us of all anger, bitterness, hate and unforgiveness. Amen."



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

Leviticus : The Year of Jubilee

Leviticus 25:13-19

Pastor Mike Ngui

John 21: 15-19

In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to their own property.

“If you sell land to any of your own people or buy land from them, do not take advantage of each other. You are to buy from your own people on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. And they are to sell to you on the basis of the number of years left for harvesting crops. When the years are many, you are to increase the price, and when the years are few, you are to decrease the price, because what is really being sold to you is the number of crops. Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the Lord your God.”

“Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety.”

Introduction

The year of Jubilee is the 50th year, an extended rest year after 7 cycles of sabbatical years. The year of Jubilee is important to God, as God envisioned Jubilee to be a time

of forgiveness, of freedom and of faith. God created the year of Jubilee so His people can be free from bondage and slavery, and to continue to trust in Him. The year of the Jubilees is not just in the past, but very relevant in our lives today as we continue to seek God and to pursue holiness.

Big Idea: Our Jubilee is in God, made possible through Christ alone

I. Jubilee is about Forgiveness

In the early days, Jubilee is the year where after working hard for many years and debts are still owed, these debts are forgiven. Debtors are released from their debts and all claims nullified. This can still be practiced today, not just in the economic context but also in our personal life. Jubilee is a time where when debtors are released from their debts, there can be lesser socio-economic disparity among the rich and the poor. The year of Jubilee is also a time where God forgives, forgets and removes our sins, so that we no longer live under bondage, but is restored with the joy of salvation.

1. God forgives our sins *Psalm 32:1; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 2:12*

God forgives our sins and pardons us for our wrongdoings. This absolution of sin breaks our bondage to sin and brings us happiness at being forgiven. Such joy is only found when we are redeemed by God's grace.

2. God forgets our sins *Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 10:17*

God not only forgives our sins, but He also chooses not to remember our sins. He forgives and forgets and assures us that once our transgressions are wiped out, He will no longer remember them. God urges us not to keep a list of our sins, lest we are unable to move on and to embrace God's love and forgiveness.

3. God removes our sins *Psalm 103:11, 12*

God continues to reaffirm that our sins are absolutely gone. It will be completely erased and no longer found. God's posture to our sins is consistent and pronounced - He removes them completely from our past. As such, we can look into the future with renewed hope and trust in Him.

4. God restores us *Psalm 23:3; Psalm 51:12*

Jubilee is also the year of restoration. In the early days, lands that were lost were restored to their rightful owners. Likewise, this promise is now extended to beyond

just the physical aspects. God restores our sense of purpose, self-worth, belonging, hope, relationship, and all that is good and rightfully ours as children of God. God restores our soul and the joy of our salvation.

II. Jubilee is about Freedom *John 8:34,36; Galatians 5:1,13*

Jubilee is the time to break free from bondage. If we have been living a life enslaved to the bondage of sin, addiction, or the tyranny of human nature, we need to be set free. And we can be set free when we embrace Christ. Knowing the Truth and the Gospel, liberates us from our slavery to the past. With Christ in our lives, redemption and salvation takes place, and we can finally experience freedom.

III. Jubilee is about Faith *1 John 5:4; Romans 10:17*

Faith is exemplified in the year of Jubilee. For 2 years, man relied and trusted on God for His provision as no work (sowing, planting) was done on the 49th and the 50th year. Trusting God demands a lot of faith; faith that He will intervene at the right time to provide and help; and that no matter what happens, have faith that God is always in control.

Conclusion

In short, the year of Jubilee is pivotal in our Christian life. It is created by God for His people to remind us to stop being self-sufficient, but to rely on and trust in Him for His provision. It is God's way to bring us back to Him, so that He could provide for us, protect us, and for us to enjoy His blessings. In addition, the forgiveness, restoration, freedom and faith experienced in the year of Jubilee, teaches us to demonstrate these to each other so that God remains at the center of our lives as we pursue His holiness.



SERMON REFLECTION

The year of Jubilee – a perfect pause and reset phase in our lives. It is the time for us to reflect on what is important in our lives and how we can make things right. If we have been living under bondage in sin and everyday distractions, this is the time to re-examine our hearts and our attitude to God and others and align our way back to Him.

In reality, many of us may have taken our year of Jubilee, Sabbatical year or even Sabbath day for granted. We may not have been sensitive enough to realize that our much-needed pause and reset is here. We are too busy with work and preoccupied with daily commitments. There are always deadlines to meet, rigid schedules to follow, and the stress from all these may interfere with our relationship with God and others.

Therefore, it is good that God has created the year of Jubilee for us. It does not have to be an exact calculation of calendar years, but simply a time for rest, to seek God for His forgiveness, to be freed from bondage, and to renew our faith in Him. It is a time to pause and stop running our lives our own way, but to rely on God. It is also the time where healing and restoration takes place, that when reflected upon, would show that God is in control.

This past year has been a challenging year for most of us. But, reflecting on this, could it have been a pause and rest year for some of us? As we spend less time at work and more time at home, did we learn to build better relationships between spouses, among families, relatives and friends? Did we learn to get along with one another, forgiving and forgetting the past and moving forward together? And as we undergo a lifestyle change, did we find God and break free from our past bondage? And for most of us, we learnt to trust God even more in the past year, for His provision, guidance and blessings, in the midst of stormy days. We learnt to trust with faith in all that God can do!

God clearly loves us and knows what is best for us. Honour our Sabbath Day, Sabbatical Years and Jubilee Years, to enjoy His blessings.

Forgive us Father, for we often run our lives relying on our own strength. And as a result, we grow weary, faithless and burned out, so easily. We continued to live in bondage as we have neglected to take our troubles to You. Therefore, teach us

Father, to honour what you have created for us-a time to pause and rest, and to let healing and restoration take place. Amen.

Contributed by Adeline Ting (PJN2)



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Questions

- Have you ever done a favour for or returned a favour to someone recently?
- How long has it been since you had a good rest/Sabbath? Did you rest because you have to, or because you want to?

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- How would you know when your year of Jubilee is? What are some of the signs which may indicate that this is your year of Jubilee?
- Jubilee and the sabbatical years. How practical is this in today's context? Will we be able to let go and trust in God for His provision during these times?

Share your thoughts or personal story if you have experienced this.

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- The year of Jubilee is where forgiveness, restoration, freedom and faith are experienced. Have you experienced your personal “year of the Jubilee”? Was there forgiveness, restoration, freedom and/or empowerment of faith? Share your story.
- Think of a time in your life where you could have been either the debtor or the debtee. How did you feel when you were released from the debt? Share your thoughts.
- As men, we struggle with “It is easy to forgive but not forget”. Does it mean that we have truly forgiven others when we have not forgotten? How can we overcome this struggle?
- Trusting God takes a lot of faith. How is God inviting you to trust in Him, especially with regards to the year of Jubilee? Discuss this and pray for each other.

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- Taking a sabbatical may be an important decision for some of us. What are some of the “push and pull” factors that help decide if a sabbatical is due?
 - How many of us intentionally allocate sabbath days, sabbatical years, and jubilee years? How has the arrangement(s) been for you? Share your story.
 - Christ freed us from our bondage to sin. Does that freedom empower us to live a righteous life? Or does it make us want to sin further?
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PRAYER



Photo by Timothy Eberly on Unsplash

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Malaysia Bible Seminary (MBS)

MBS is an evangelical, inter-denominational seminary preparing workers for pastoral, missionary & other Christian work in local & international churches.

Pray for:

- Final approval of the Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) of their second phase building project.
- Visas for the international students.

Spiritual Atmosphere of Our Nation

Ask God to

- Dispel darkness in the principalities and powers of our nation and bring His light, hope and shalom.
 - Defeat the evil plots of divisive and partisan politics and cause demonic agents to fail and to flee.
 - Uproot the spirit of mediocrity decaying the education system and diminishing the productivity of the nation, and bring back excellence and meritocracy.
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OTHER RESOURCES

*Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!*

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!



Holiness

6 minutes 34 seconds

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

In this video, we explore the paradox that God's holiness ...

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#) [Prayer & Spirituality](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Video Clip](#)



Sacrifice and Atonement

7 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

In this video on sacrifice and atonement, we trace the the...

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#)

[Video Clip](#)



Overview: Leviticus

8 minutes 16 seconds

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Israel's holy God invites them to live in His presence desp...

[Bible](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Video Clip](#)



Holiness as the Church Bearing Fruit

seedbed.com

Holiness, as we have seen, is not merely about eradicatin...

[Timothy Tennent](#)

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#) [Teaching](#) [Christian Living](#)

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