Redeem

Scriptures – the prodigal son

Titus 2:14
Christ Jesus who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

1 Peter 1:18-19
knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Redeem – is to deem something yours again.

When we deem something we are saying it is right; it is true; it belongs to us or what was said was a true account.

What can be redeemed?

Land – Leviticus 27:19
House – Leviticus 27:15
Animals – Leviticus 27:27
Relationships –Leviticus 25:48
Tithes – Leviticus 27:31
People who have sinned – Numbers 18:17

You have been redeemed. God has paid the price for you. His son was the price.

When God redeems us He deems us his again.
You are right. What I said about you originally is true. I affirm that you are mine.

This is the message of salvation.

Prophetic Word
Last weekend we had Ps Steve and Debbie White from C3 Kingscliff come and share with us as a church. Steve spoke a prophetic word out over me on Sunday morning. He said 'There is a redeeming aspect of your work here. God has given you the ability to bring His redemptive power into people's lives. You will cause redemption."

During the week Ps Ayleen and I were in prayer and I began to pray out this word over my life and the life of this church. **C3 Church Marion is a church that redeems people.**

It takes that which once belonged to it, then went away and now comes back.

Church this morning I want to say to you get ready for God is about to bring people back into this church. Some of these people left 1 year ago, some left two years ago, others have long since been forgotten. But God has already begun this work in our midst and Ps Steve did not even know it. **Many of you are here today because God redeemed you**. He said this is your home and this is where you need to be. God redeemed you back to this house.

How cool is that. **You are part of that prophetic word spoken last week**.

The Redeeming power of God
The redeeming power of God is amazingly powerful. Nothing sits outside of this power. Nothing is beyond the power of God. Nothing sits is a zone or a place that is beyond the power of God. His redeeming power is all powerful. Every person we know that once served God, that once loved God, that once worshipped here can be redeemed back into this House. I am not saying every one of them will be but I can tell you God is doing far much more behind our backs than in front of our faces and we need to get ready for the redeemed ones to return.

Join with us – in prayer
I want you to join with me and Ps Ayleen in prayer for people you know should be here. Loved ones, friends, family, former members. Don't say its impossible.

When **the prodigal son** said I want to go home and serve in the house, he was paving the way for many others to do likewise down through the generations. His response to the place he was in changed the course of history. He came home. He came back to the place where he was born and re connected with God.

He came back with the attitude of service and got added the cloak of authority. God turns things right around.

The Older Son
One valuable lesson is the other son who stayed home and worked. He grumbled, complained, whinged, wined, he was one of the first to sing 'what about me it isn't fair'.

> What about me? It isn't fair
> I've had enough, now I want my share
> Can't you see, I wanna live
> But you just take more than you give

Church we are not a people who whinge and complain, C3 Church we are a church that embrace and accept.

2 Corinthians 2:14
We stand up and say thanks be to God who leads this church in triumph and through us diffuses the fragrance of his knowledge in every place.

What is a fragrance?
A fragrance is a smell. It lingers around where we are. It makes people respond in different ways depending on the smell.

When we know God we become smelly. We carry a fragrance. It hangs around.

'It hangs around like a bad smell.' Heaven hangs around us. It is on us, in us and around us.

What do you smell of? Do you smell of the fragrance of Christ?

1 Corinthians 13:13 Now there abides faith, hope and love.

Faith hope and love abide, **they hang around**. They linger like a fragrance. I want to make a statement today, it's a powerful statement that if you catch it, it has the power to totally change your life.

The fragrance of Christ is faith, hope and love.

Make the decision to live in faith. That's the perfume of heaven.

Make the decision today to not look back and ask where have you been but look forward with hope. Hope is a perfume of heaven.

Make the decision today to love whoever rocks up. Get out of your seats find them, embrace them, welcome them and if they are sitting alone invite them to sit with you. Love is a perfume of heaven.

They smell good. They bring a smile to people's faces and lives. They make people sit up and think I like that smell.

Here are some other smells that can come out of people.

Negativity
Selfishness
Poverty
Deceitfulness

They are strong but they are nothing compared to faith, hope and love.

Faith, hope and love are powerful because they have a redeeming power.

Faith is a redeeming power
When we walk in faith we please God. When we walk in faith we carry the message that everything is alright with God. He works all things together for good. He can turn that situation around. He will redeem that situation.

It may take time but it will happen.

Hope is a redeeming power
When we decide to live out of hope we say to those who have gone astray that there is a plan of God for your life and it's a good one. We point people to the redeeming power of God for their world. Their dreams can come to pass. Their hopes can be set right. Those relationships can be mended. The power of God will touch their lives.

Love has a redeeming power.

It says all things are good. It does not get puffed up but releases offence. It chooses to forgive – this is giving before getting something. When we forgive someone we love him or her. We pave the way for them to be redeemed. To be bought again.

Now there abides faith, hope and love. The three most potent redemptive agents known in the world today.

If I was to fold a sheet of thin cardboard fifty times, how thick would the resulting pile be?

a. 5 mm
b. about 3 cm
c. about one metre
d. 1 kilometre
e. Great than 1000 kilometres

The actual answer is about 140 million kilometres – about the same distance from the earth to the sun.

If we folded it twice times it will be about 1mm thick, 3 times and it is 2mm thick. 2 to the power of 47 is approximately 1.4 x 10 to the power of 14.

The power of God is like this. We think it can only do so much but the redemptive power of God can go so much further than we realise.

Church, C3 church Marion we use to be known as 'The House of Mercy and Grace' and prior to that as 'Bethesda'. While we have changed and become part of a new organisation, a great organisation called C3 church; our foundations are speaking to us today.

We are not talking about some mushy mushy kind of Christianity we are talking about being known as a place where things can be made right in God through his love and mercy. We are talking about being a people that deems things right. That speaks out the right things of God. This is not just about caring for the poor and needy of society it is about being the fragrance of Christ, the essence of heaven, carrying about in us the smell of faith, hope and love. This is about bringing the redeeming power of God to every situation we face. It is about bringing the redeeming power of God into other people's worlds.

It's about bringing the 'new day' into the world. People face all sorts of things every day. This week alone the world has faced trauma.

a. Floods in Manilla
b. Tsunami in Samoa
c. Earthquake in Indonesia
d. Floods in Vietnam and Sicily
e. Earthquakes in Samoa, California

We can't change those events but we can speak life. We can point people to the greatest hope we have – God. We pray for people, we ring them and talk with them, we have a meal with them, and we talk normally but with faith. We stop ourselves going negative. We don't say things like 'yeah the world is going to pot', or 'they deserved it'; 'that's just the judgement of God'; 'I wonder if that could happen in Australia' or even in Adelaide… no we those things do not cast faith and hope they breed fear and anxiety.

We speak up things like

‘You know we should pray for their families’; ‘maybe we can do something and arrange to pass the hat around at work’; ‘I choose to live a life of faith and hope’; ‘I believe we will be fine’.

Church we are a redeeming church. We have redeeming power here. We live out of that redeeming power. We carry the fragrance of Christ the fragrance of heaven around with us. Let’s carry it openly.

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