

Spiritual Liberty For All!

We looked at this passage regarding Jesus' words and spiritual liberty:

138:3.6 As the dinner progressed, the joy of the diners mounted to heights of good cheer, and everybody was having such a splendid time that the onlooking Pharisees began, in their hearts, to criticize Jesus for his participation in such a lighthearted and carefree affair. Later in the evening, when they were making speeches, one of the more malignant of the Pharisees went so far as to criticize Jesus' conduct to Peter, saying: "How dare you to teach that this man is righteous when he eats with publicans and sinners and thus lends his presence to such scenes of careless pleasure making." Peter whispered this criticism to Jesus before he spoke the parting blessing upon those assembled. When Jesus began to speak, he said: "In coming here tonight to welcome Matthew and Simon to our fellowship, I am glad to witness your lightheartedness and social good cheer, but you should rejoice still more because many of **you will find entrance into the coming kingdom of the spirit**, wherein you shall more abundantly enjoy the good things of the kingdom of heaven. And to you who stand about criticizing me in your hearts because I have come here to make merry with these friends, let me say that **I have come to proclaim joy to the socially downtrodden and spiritual liberty to the moral captives**. Need I remind you that they who are whole need not a physician, but rather those who are sick? I have come, not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus was implying that there is a new spiritual place called the 'kingdom of the spirit'.
What does being a 'captive' feel like? How can morals make us prisoners in search of freedom?

We looked at this passage last week at the meeting as well:

These circumstances rendered it impossible for the Jews to fulfill their divine destiny as messengers of the new gospel of religious freedom and spiritual liberty. They could not break the fetters of tradition. Jeremiah had told of the "law to be written in men's hearts," Ezekiel had spoken of a "new spirit to live in man's soul," and the Psalmist had prayed that God would "create a clean heart within and renew a right spirit." But when the Jewish religion of good works and slavery to law fell victim to the stagnation of traditionalistic inertia, the motion of religious evolution passed westward to the European peoples. 121:7.5

What do you think fetters of tradition do?

Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Psalmist are men of old. What's been going on all of this time?

And here is another wonderful passage that we looked at:

170:2.1 The Master made it clear that the kingdom of heaven must begin with, and be centered in, the dual concept of the truth of the fatherhood of God and the correlated fact of the brotherhood of man. The acceptance of such a teaching, Jesus declared, would liberate man from the age-long bondage of animal fear and at the same time enrich human living with the following endowments of the new life of spiritual liberty...

Faith alone is all that is required.

In preparation for the next meeting keep in mind a few things:

- * Be sure others get a chance to talk also.
- * Never speaking removes the blessing that you may become for someone.
- * Let God use you in this meeting.
- * Be other's oriented and humble.
- * Remember that everyone in the room has a fragment of God within them!
- * The angels record everything!

