



Date: September 10th, 2023

Title: Layers of Liberation

Scripture: Luke 11:14-28

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

Teaching

Jesus presents the religious with a new vision of who he was and what he was going to do in their midst. He uses violent language – break-in, tie up, plunder – all illegal activities. Yet this is the metaphor, the parable Jesus uses. Jesus is digging into his opponents with this language. He is not simply disagreeing ... he is pointing out that they are complicit in the Kingdom that will fall along with its “house” (a seeming reference to the temple).

It was believed that when Israel lost its independence that God relegated the rule of Israel to earthly powers – to the devil and his angels. While it seems that Jesus is speaking philosophically and myth logically, he may also be making a bold statement about the coming destruction of Israel. Jesus, it seems, is going about binding up the strong man, and cleaning house. Jesus answers the question posed by the prophet Isaiah in Isa 49: “Can plunder be taken from a warrior ...?” God’s reply is a firm “yes.” We then together explored the question of what exactly is Jesus “plundering” and how this connects to the captives captives who are set free.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

- 1) What's a book or movie/tv show that you recommend most frequently?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. Give an example of a time when you heard someone make a baseless, negative claim about someone else.
2. Why do we as humans seem prone to believe the worst about someone with whom we disagree?
3. Jesus, in his response to his accusers, claims he is about liberation. What does liberation look like?
4. Discuss this statement: Jesus elevates the conversation and points to the real enemy who are not the people accusing him.
5. Who is your enemy?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Prayer of Examen](#)