



*Jesus was a freedom fighter. He liberated people from the powers of darkness so they could become who they were created to be. So if Jesus is our rabbi, we need to be just as committed to the ministry of helping people claim “no longer slaves” status. This series explores what that looks like.*

### **Week 1: No Longer Slaves... “to the Rule of the Enemy” (Rick Atchley – 9/29/24)**

1. Rick began by saying, “Freedom can mean different things to different people.” What does freedom mean to you personally? Follow up: Share one way you’ve experienced freedom and talk about how God has used that to help someone else too.
2. **WHAT HE DID** *Jesus didn’t come just to redeem people; he came to release people. Read Mark 3:13-14, Luke 4:17-19, and Acts 10:38.* What stands out to you the most from these passages? Follow up: How does Jesus’ mission to set people free from bondage shape your understanding of what it means to follow Him?
3. **Jesus was a freedom fighter.** *Jesus’ encounters with demons were one-sided (see Luke 4:33-34, & Matthew 8:29).* What does this tell us about His authority over the enemy? How should this influence our confidence in spiritual battles? Follow up: **Read 1 John 3:8** Reflect on the statement “Jesus had to make war in order to bring peace.” How does this challenge or confirm your understanding of Jesus’ ministry?
4. **WHAT THIS MEANS: Bondage has a spiritual dimension.** *...behind the problem of evil is the devil. Read Ephesians 6:12.* How does recognizing that our struggles have a spiritual dimension change the way you approach challenges in your own life? Can you think of specific situations in the world where you sense “the powers behind the problems” at work? How does this understanding affect how you might respond or pray about these issues?
5. **WHAT THIS MEANS: Freedom requires a power encounter.** Have you experienced such an encounter in your own life? How does baptism symbolize our freedom and new life in Christ, based on **Colossians 2:12-15**? Follow up: How has this been true for you?
6. **WHAT WE DO: Followers of Jesus deliver deliverance in Jesus’ name.** *Yet many people remain bound by a “warden” who has no legal authority over them.* How does this truth apply to your life or the lives of those around you? Follow up: What does being an “ambassador of freedom” mean to you personally? Share one specific way you can live this out in the coming week.

