**God Rescues (Acts 5:17-26)**

Our God is a Rescuing God.

Greetings to all of you dear brothers and sisters, as we see the saving aspect of God today. The subject is appropriate, given that we celebrated America’s independence yesterday. The topic of freedom and emancipation are indispensable realities in a Christian’s life. If we do not live free in the Lord, then our entire life is spent in an invisible slavery. For that reason, today, it is important to remember that God is a saving, rescuing and emancipating God. Due to time constraints, we will deal with these three in one shot. If you can take one truth home with you today, it would be that truly, our God is a Rescuing God. Let us speak, then, about this freedom (that comes as a result of His Rescue) …

When you are doing the work of God, He keeps you in His freedom. When you take into account the situation of the apostles in the early church, it is not hard to understand why we say that God keeps you in His freedom. The apostles were carrying on the work of evangelism. The sick and demon possessed were being brought from surrounding villages and were being healed, as well as being told of salvation in Jesus. God’s work, in other words, was advancing. It was their opponents’ jealousy which became the cause of their imprisonment – an attempt to limit their physical freedom in order to crush their spiritual freedom (in Christ). The Lord did not permit that to go on. He freed the apostle by His own hand from that jail, and they continued their ministry of obedience to God’s command, preaching on the Temple grounds. In a word, no obstacle may stand in God’s way, especially if it is one slowing down the call to evangelize.

A writer tells of the following: In the back of the platform of Faneuil Hall, Boston, stands a large painting of Webster's debate with Hayne, inscribed, "Union and Liberty, one and inseparable, now and forever." “I was present,” tells the writer, “when old General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, once made an address in Faneuil Hall. His peroration was dramatic. Turning to the painting, he cried, "'Union and liberty' — union with Christ and liberty from sin—'one and inseparable, now and forever."' The one safeguard against sin's thralldom is union with the living Christ. There is no spiritual liberty apart from this union.”

That spiritual freedom, for us, is a foundation and pillar of our faith. God has freed us through Christ to be able to fearlessly speak the messages of the Lord’s life to others. God is not going to allow His work in us to die down or flounder, as long as we are obeying Him with a willingly and wholeheartedly. God has emancipated our souls from the power of sin – and when the Enemy tries to jail or imprison us externally, the Lord has means by which our internal freedom in Christ can be brought forth externally. Since God is a Savior/Rescuer/Emancipator, our freedom in Christ can never be disturbed. It is simply up to us to keep the fire of our faith and our obedience to His Word going, and He will cause His work within us to succeed, using many kinds of resources at His disposal, even freeing us from jails supernaturally, if need be.

When you are doing the work of God, He keeps you in His freedom.

Our God is a Rescuing God.

May the Lord, on this occasion of the Independence of the United States of America, remind us of the truth of our spiritual emancipation which we are to express and to bear witness to everywhere that we go. Our God is a Rescuing, Freeing, Emancipating God. May the Lord Bless you all. Amen.