



December 19 and 22 Steve Cuss

PRIMARY SCRIPTURES:

Gal. 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

Gal. 4:5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Gal. 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Gal. 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Rom. 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) How was your week? Where did you see God at work?

2) Steve said that conversion is about God releasing us from what binds us and ushering us into a freedom that we've never encountered before. If you are a follower of Christ, what have you been released from?

3) For Paul, Christmas is about freedom. And for Paul, freedom is 'freed-from.' We tend to think of freedom as 'I can do whatever I want.' But biblical freedom has to do with being released from chains and slavery. What is your take on this?

4) We have baptism weeks the first two weeks of Jan. If you have been baptized, what was it like for you? Why did you do it? If you have not been baptized, what do you think of being baptized?

5) Steve suggested that some words are left in the spoken language in the Bible because they were spoken during a memorable event. Examples are below. Do you have an event seared in your memory that is moving? What was said?

Talitha cum meaning "Little girl, get up!" (Mark 5:41)

Ephphatha meaning "Be opened." (Mark 7:34)

Raca meaning "fool" (Matthew 5:22)

Rabbouni meaning "teacher" (John 20:16)

Eli Eli lema sabachthani meaning "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

Hosanna meaning "O Lord, save us." (Mark 11:9)

Maranatha meaning "Lord, come!" (1 Corinthians 16:22)

Abba meaning "Father" (Mark 14:36)

6) That last word Abba - the first time someone called God 'dad.' What is it like to consider God as Dad?

7) Adoption in the Roman Empire was about a man carrying on his name if he didn't have kids. Often he would adopt the household slave and give the slave his name and his inheritance. So the adopted child would continue the family name. The church, in many ways, is continuing the name of God, we are the 'adopted ones.' What is your take on this?