

Read Leviticus 25 v 8-17- Jubilee

On the surface it may just seem like a great egalitarian set up but the Jubilee principle give us great insight into who God is; his care for his people, his heart for the poor. It reminds us again that everything belongs to God. A God who releases those in Slavery, who wipes the books clean, a God of second chances. Leviticus 25 provides us with a huge telescope through which we can see God.

The God who owns everything: God owns the land; he is the landlord. The people were His tenants under Him. The earth is the lords and everything in it. It reminds us that all that we have is solely to the mercy and favour of God, the Great Landowner.

The God who cares for the poor: The Jubilee was God's answer to long-term poverty. People become poor for all kinds of reasons; they struggle to improve their situation. However, the Jubilee allowed for a new beginning in every generation. For people caught in the poverty trap, it gave hope and new opportunities as land was restored to its original owners, debts cancelled and slaves set free.

The God who sets men free: For every man at the 50 year point his debt is cleared and he is released but ideally a relative should pay off the debt. A kinsman would step in before the Jubilee year and redeem the one who was in debt, thereby purchasing their freedom. For the people of Israel, God brought freedom through the law of Jubilee but for us today God has brought freedom through Jesus. Jesus, became like us, that he might be our kinsman, the only one who has the right to redeem us.

The God who restores: Can you imagine it? Days before the trumpet sounds- The excitement of knowing the freedom, back in your home with your family. No more at the commands of other people. God brings restoration to the land and its people. Life was beginning anew. It gives us an incredible picture as to what God does for us through Jesus. God restores our inheritance to us. The people of Israel had their land restored to them but the bible testifies to the recovery of the whole of creation. For us a time of Jubilee is coming. A trumpet will sound for a last time. What a day it will be. Almost impossible to imagine. No eye has seen no ear has heard what God has prepared for those who love him. But above all else he will dwell with us and he will be our God.

Some questions...

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you doing about it?
2. How does your understanding of God owning everything affect the way you handle possessions and money?
3. How do you remember to poor?
4. What does the freedom Jesus gives you mean to you?
5. What things do you think God has put in His 'Will' for you? What is your inheritance?