

What do you carry? What are you dragging? What do you leave behind?

Baggage Check

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Baggage Free (Week 4)

OPENING: Share one thing that stood out for you from Pastor Ta's message.

INTRODUCTION:

Some baggage are hard to drop because...

- they have become a part of your identity.
- you feel increasingly hopeless without them.
- you have become defensive about them.
- you have become a slave.

Some baggage have caused us to be entangled. Read Romans 7:15, Romans 6:12-14 and Hebrews 12:1-3.

How to Break Free

The spiritual truth is, we are free in Christ (Galatians 5:1). We are heirs and not slaves anymore. However, rather than embracing the freedom we find in Christ Jesus, we often allow ourselves to remain chained to the past and the things of this world. As we see in Scripture, we do not need to do that! We do not have to live that way. We should not be subject to entanglements! The chains are broken! We have been set free through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. We are now a part of His family and are now heirs rather than slaves.

1. **Admit the Problem.** So what are your personal entanglements? Unless we recognize that we have a problem, we won't embrace any cure for it. That's the first step to freedom- recognize the problem. As we see in the New Testament, Jesus has already provided for those chains to be broken. We must choose the freedom Christ is offering, the very freedom He died to give to us. Now, we have to step out in faith and believe God has more for our lives than what we are experiencing (2 Corinthians 3:17).
2. **Surrender to God's control.** Read 2 Peter 2:19. As Pastor Ta mentioned, the second step to freedom is to recognize who is in control. We need to understand that Jesus wants to be in control of your life, not because He is selfish, but because He loves you. He knows that left to your own devices or apart from His grace, we will pick up things we don't need or are not good for us. He wants us to live to the fullest. When we drop our baggage at his feet and allow Him to cut us loose from our entanglements, trust that He will bring the change. What or who is in control over us?
3. **Trust God to bring the change.** The key to this truth is, stay the course. Once you have relinquished control over to God, embrace and pursue His will for you. Always keep yourself plugged in to God's power. He provides us with ways for us to keep plugged in. Our church, our leaders, our DGroups, the Bible, prayer and worship are just among the few provisions for us to stay the course. We need to engage in and develop habits that free us. Trust that God is the one who will bring the change. Read Philippians 1:6 and 2:13.

Application:

1. **Can the excuses.** Read Luke 14:18-20. Some of us cannot drop our baggage and fully follow Jesus because we make excuses for them. Breaking free from our baggage involves canning the excuses. Put your excuses away. Until we do so, unnecessary baggage in our life will always be heavy upon us. One of the strong points from the sermon on Sunday was, "Take God's Word as your standard for living." When God tells us to drop the baggage, let's drop the baggage. When God says "This is how you ought to live" we obey Him. Why should we obey God? Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Matthew 11:28-29. What happens when we don't have standards?

2. **Cut the ties.** When we experience freedom, we don't want to be on bondage again. That is why it is important for us to cut the ties that may pull us back to the baggage we've already decided to drop off. As we learned from the past sermons in this series, we must make a decision to let go of things, activities, habits and relationships that bring out the worst in us, keep us from reaching our potential, going deeper in our walk with God. We must choose to stay the course that God has given us and make God's will our goal. Read the following: 1 Corinthians 15:33-34, James 4:7, Philippians 4:13. Are there ties in your life that need to be cut off?

3. Fill the void.

- A. Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18) Keep relying on the power of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. Give Him absolute control. Accept God's power as your strength.
- B. God's Word. (Ephesians 5:26 NLT) Fill your heart and mind with the Word of God, have a regular Bible reading time and journal the things God is teaching you.
- C. Prayer. (Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT) Relationships grow when we invest time in it. Talk to God in prayer at an intentional time daily.
- D. Accountability partners. (James 5:16) Find people who are wise and anointed by the Spirit. Hang out with them more and allow them a voice into your life.
- E. Find a Ministry. Look for ways through which you can be a part of a team that serves to expand the Kingdom of God.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

SUMMER BAPTISM BASH – AUGUST 7. Lakeland College Patio

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior and you want to take your next step of faith, SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM!