

Field Guide and Leader Guide 9.28.25

Scripture Reference

Leviticus 25:10

Summary

The story of Jubilee begins as a law in Leviticus—a command to cancel debts, free slaves, and restore land every fifty years. On paper, it was brilliant, but Israel never practiced it. Why? Because law can command action but cannot compel desire. God kept pressing deeper: in Deuteronomy, Jubilee became an ethic rooted in gratitude; in Isaiah, a prophetic vision that stirred the imagination. Yet still, it wasn't enough.

Then Jesus stood in a synagogue, unrolled the scroll of Isaiah, and declared, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). He embodied Jubilee: forgiving sins, healing the broken, freeing the oppressed, restoring outsiders into God's family. What law demanded, what ethic urged, and what vision inspired—Jesus fulfilled. And He doesn't just change what we do, He changes what we want to do.

Questions and Follow-Up

1. The Israelites resisted Jubilee because it was a "have to," not a "want to." How do you see this same struggle in your own life when it comes to following God?
 - **Follow-Up 1:** What's an example of something you used to see as a "have to" that God has transformed into a "want to"?
 - **Follow-Up 2:** How can prayer—like "God, give me Your heart"—shift our desires toward His?
2. Isaiah paints a picture of Jubilee that stirs longing—ruins rebuilt, grief turned to joy, disgrace replaced by honor. Which part of that vision most inspires you, and why?
 - **Follow-Up 1:** How do you see glimpses of Isaiah's vision happening in your life, church, or community today?

- **Follow-Up 2:** What's one practical way you can join God in rebuilding, restoring, or bringing joy to someone this week?
3. Jesus declared Himself the fulfillment of Jubilee. How does knowing Jubilee is not just a law or vision but a present reality in Christ reshape the way you live?
- **Follow-Up 1:** How has Jesus already brought freedom or restoration in your life?
 - **Follow-Up 2:** Where is He inviting you to extend that same freedom and restoration to others?

Scripture References

Leviticus 25:10 | Deuteronomy 15:14–15 | Isaiah 61:1 | Luke 4:21 | John 14:15 | 1 John 5:3

Conclusion

The law told Israel what to do, but their hearts resisted. The ethic called them to gratitude, but it wasn't enough. The vision inspired their imagination, but still fell short. Only Jesus fulfilled Jubilee—and in Him, freedom is not a burden but a joy. His Spirit transforms our “have to” into “want to.”

If we love Him, we will keep His commandments—not out of guilt, but because His love changes our hearts. Liberty and justice aren't distant ideals; they are present realities in Jesus Christ, lived out in His people, and extended to a broken world. The question for us is simple: will we let Him give us His heart?