



Pastor's Comments

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Life Without Chains

A cowboy from the Western plains noticed a live eagle in a large cage at a taxidermist's shop. It was a magnificent bird! "How much do you want for that bird?" he asked. "Oh, that eagle would cost you a lot," and the man named his price. The cowboy said, "I don't know whether I have that much." After going through all his pockets, he asked, "**Will you take all I have?** I have no more." The man counted the money and replied, "Yes, the eagle is yours."

Eagerly the cowboy **undid the eagle's chain** and carried it outside of town. He put the eagle on a fence and then stepping back, took off his big hat and began waving it. The eagle lifted his head, caught sight of the sun, ruffled his feathers, then extended his huge wings and **away he flew, up and up.**

Some folk who had watched the cowboy asked, "What did you do that for?" "Well," he said, "I live out in the open, and I have seen these eagles **enjoying their freedom.** I couldn't bear to see that bird chained. **It cost me my last dollar, but I wanted to set him free.**

One day **our Lord Jesus saw us captive, chained, and bound,** so He came and **gave all that He had for our freedom.** That is the great aim of the gospel: **to deliver us from bondage.** There are so many bondages of sin: evil habits, passions, fears, guilt. But Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free**" (John 8:32). And again, "**If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed**" (John 8:36). **When we believe the gospel, we are set at liberty;** we began life anew – no longer dominated by the world, the flesh, and devil. This is **authentic freedom – life without chains.** If you are not enjoying this kind of life but are still captive to sin, like the eagle in the cage, your Liberator waits to set you free. Receive this new life now! It is God's gift to you if you will take it.

Northampton

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