



**“My Testimony Is:  
This Has Been One of the Best Years of My Life”  
December 31, 2006**

**Sermon Notes**

**Why?**

**Because I don't judge people like I used to.**

**John 8:1-11 (New Living Translation)**

**1** Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, **2** but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. **3** As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and Pharisees brought a woman they had caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. **4** "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. **5** The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" **6** They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. **7** They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, stone her. But let those who have never sinned throw the first stones!" **8** Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. **9** When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. **10** Then Jesus stood up again and said to her, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" **11** "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

**Because I don't fear the things I feared last year! As a matter of fact, I laugh at what I used to be afraid of...**

**2 Timothy 1:7 (New Living Translation)**

**7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

**Because I know if I ask for anything according to the will of God, I can have it! My confidence is no longer in my ability, but his.**

**1 John 5:14-15 (New Living Translation)**

**14** And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. **15** And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.

**Because I learned when the enemy tries to tempt me, I just say what God says!**

- **I am who God says I am!**
- **I can do what God says I can do!**
- **I can have what God says I can have!**

### **Matthew 4:1-11 (New Living Translation)**

**1** Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted there by the Devil. **2** For forty days and forty nights he ate nothing and became very hungry. **3** Then the Devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, change these stones into loaves of bread." **4** But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God.'" **5** Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, **6** and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He orders his angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.'" **7** Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'" **8** Next the Devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world and all their glory. **9** "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel down and worship me." **10** "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him.'" **11** Then the Devil went away, and angels came and cared for Jesus.

### **Because in spite of my circumstances I know how to worship God and break chains off of me!**

#### **Acts 16:16-31 (New Living Translation)**

**16** One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a demon-possessed slave girl. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. **17** She followed along behind us shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." **18** This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and spoke to the demon within her. "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her," he said. And instantly it left her. **19** Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. **20** "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted. **21** "They are teaching the people to do things that are against Roman customs." **22** A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. **23** They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. **24** So he took no chances but put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

**25** Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. **26** Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! **27** The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. **28** But Paul shouted to him, "Don't do it! We are all here!" **29** Trembling with fear, the jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down before Paul and Silas. **30** He brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **31** They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with your entire household."

### **Because I don't believe God brought me this far to leave me!**

#### **Jeremiah 29:11 (New Living Translation)**

**11** For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**Jeremiah 29:11 (King James Version)**

**11**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

**Because I truly received Christ into my heart!**

**Romans 10:8-10 (New Living Translation)**

**8** Salvation that comes from trusting Christ – which is the message we preach – is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, "The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart." **9** For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.