

A preacher named Dr. Gordon one Easter brought an old beat-up rusty birdcage and sat it next to the pulpit. As he gave his sermon that Easter morning he held up the cage and said, "You might be wondering why this is here. As a matter of fact, it's not a normal part of an Easter service, having a birdcage here."

He said, "Let me tell you the story of it. Several days ago I was noticing a little boy in tattered and torn blue jeans, and a dirty t-shirt, cap off to the side, whistling, walking down an alley, and swinging this birdcage. Clinging to the bottom of the cage were little field sparrows he had caught. So I stopped him and asked, 'Say, sonny, what do you have there?' He said, 'Oh, I've got some birds.' 'What are you gonna do with 'em?' I asked. 'Oh, mess around with them, tease 'em, something like that.' 'Well,' I asked, 'when you get tired of 'em, what are you gonna do?' The boy thought a moment and said, 'Well, I got a couple of cats at home and they like birds. I think I'll just let them have at 'em.'"

Dr. Gordon said his heart went out to the little birds so he made the little lad an offer. "How much do you want for the birds?" Surprised, the boy said, "Mister, these birds ain't no good." "Well," Dr. Gordon said, "regardless, how much would you like for 'em?" The little fellow said, "How about two bucks?" He said, "Sold!" So he reached in his pocket and peeled off two dollar bills. The little boy shoved the birdcage forward pleased with his stroke of good fortune.

When the boy left, the pastor walked a good distance away, lifted open the little cage door and said, "Shoo, shoo!!" And he shoved them out of the birdcage door and they flew free.

The empty birdcage is a beautiful illustration of how Satan had the human race trapped and bothered and frightened. Jesus Christ not only paid the price for our freedom; Jesus has set us free.

We celebrated Easter Sunday two weeks ago; we celebrate the resurrection of Christ every single day when we seek to live in the reality of our King dying to set us free. It breaks my heart when I see followers of Christ wanting to live in the cage of sin and bondage from which Christ has set them free. Reflect on John 8:31-32 — Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Our Jesus is truth, peace, love, mercy, and amazing grace...walk in it, live in it!! Grace & peace, love you! PK.