

Beautiful Redemption

*I've had my forty days and forty nights at sea
I've had forty years in the wilderness, or so to speak
I've walked with sand from the ocean floor on my feet
To turn and say you left me*

*I'm a doubting Thomas in needing to believe
I'm a perfumed sinner just like Magdalene
I'm Judas kissing on your cheek eager to deceive
I am all of these*

*I cry, Father, Father, forgive me
You say, child, I already have
You are beautiful - Beautiful Redemption*

In 2005, Christian artist Joy Williams released her song, “*Beautiful Redemption*” on her 3rd Dove nominated album called *Genesis*. Redemption is the act of gaining possession of something in exchange for payment of a debt. For believers, reconciliation with God through Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection is our ultimate gift. But through Jesus’ redemption we gain so much more. Whenever believers reflect upon the gift of salvation, we should also reflect on the marvelous freedoms we have in Jesus.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom from the guilt, condemnation, and shame of our sin. He has seized our sin and taken it upon Himself. All sins – past, present, and future. We are made new creations on our day of salvation.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom from seeking to earn God’s favor. His redemption, along with our faith in Him, is a gift of God. There is nothing we can do to earn God’s righteousness or forgiveness. Our salvation is not tied to our behavior, attitude, or compliance with religious rules or traditions.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom from seeking approval and acceptance from people. The gospel breaks our addiction to people. When we fully devote to Christ our life, strength, and confidence will only be found in Him.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom from fear, worry, and anxiety. Grounding our lives in His Word gives us the confidence to trust God’s will and control of our lives without needing to know all the details or possible outcomes.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom to forgive, love our enemies, and bless those who persecute us. We don’t have to be the judge of those who hurt us, because we trust that God is fair, righteous, and loves us dearly. Our forgiveness and love just may be the light God will use to draw even our enemies nearer to Him.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom to fail and still know we are loved deeply. Our failure does not sever our relationship with God, nor does it rescind our salvation.

Jesus’ redemption grants us freedom to live a life of hope and love. Even though our world, our culture, our economy, and people change... our God doesn’t. We can have hope in Him even in the midst of chaos and crisis.

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

Keep the Faith,

Bro. Andrew