

Notes on Jubilee Economics

1. 1. PROCLAIMING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR OF A KINGDOM JUBILEE Viv Grigg Urban Leadership Foundation June 2006 (to be edited)
2. [2.](#) What was the content of Jesus' Gospel? When people heard him, what did they understand? DECLARING the YEAR of JUBILEE Jesus came preaching the Kingdom of God to the poor, declaring the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18)
3. [3.](#) 1. Background: Genesis of Work and Rest π God is the first worker and the first rester. √ He rested not out of exhaustion but out of completion √ in order to enjoy the work of his hands. π God's work was creative; √ making something from nothing; √ out of chaos creating order; √ through naming bringing into being; √ His work was artistic. π All of these are godly functions of godly work in which we can reflect his image.
4. [4.](#) The Goodness of Work π Work was created before the fall and is good. π After the fall work was cursed by God √ Humanity went from fulfillment to frustration √ from gardener to farmer. π Throughout the Bible work still contains its dignity.
5. [5.](#) Abused Work & Sabbath π This took two forms: √ Idleness √ Overwork π Which of these sins is greater? π The Sabbath √ a symbol of the covenant between God and his people √ a time to reflect and rest √ out of this reflection, worship. π Christians enter a permanent rest √ We rest in the spirit in our work √ But we also take seasons of rest
6. [6.](#) 2. The Jubilee (Lev 25:8-17) What is this Jubilee Jesus speaks of Every 50th year π It was a time of equalizing. I. LIBERTY π It is synonymous with the year of liberty. π Slaves are to be set free. π Freedom is inherent in the gospel message. II. DEBTS ARE TO BE CANCELED. π Economic freedom is inherent in the gospel message. III. CELEBRATION. π Celebration is inherent in the gospel message. IV. REDISTRIBUTION π The means of production, the land, was to be returned to the original owners. π Redistribution of the means of production is inherent in the gospel message.
7. [7.](#) Jesus' Message of the Jubilee π This theme of the Jubilee becomes central to the New Testament √ In the central passage around which Luke builds his gospel and the Acts, √ In Luke 4:18, Jesus declares his mission √ He inaugurates the Jubilee eternally. π He describes it as a proclamation of freedom, as a release from oppression, as the coming of a special year. √ These are allusions and references to the Old Testament idea of the year of Jubilee. √ He is declaring that the Jubilee has come - forever. The rest from oppression, slavery is here, forever √ The Jubilee is not being ushered in as an year but as an age.
8. [8.](#) I. A LIBERATING GOSPEL π To be set free from slavery is surely good news. π To be released from oppression is surely good news.
9. [9.](#) II. AN ECOLOGICAL GOSPEL π The Jubilee is the restoration of the land, π a restructuring of the human-land relationship. ♣ As the good news of the Jubilee is preached, so the land is allowed to rest. π Christians wait for the promised land, the return of the Messiah to rule and bring right relationships to the land. π Evangelism this decade will hinge on Christian leadership of environmental issues. √ As you are working to establish housing for the poor, The way that the created order can be reinstated to God's original purpose depends upon the proclamation of the Good News (Mark 16:15). √ Creation groans until the message of the gospel has penetrated to every person (Rom 8:19,20).
10. [10.](#) III. A CELEBRATING GOSPEL π In the Jubilee, life is a celebration. √ Jesus knew how to enjoy dining with the rich, yet for the sake of the Kingdom of God, √ This is where he did his

- evangelism. For as the proclaimer of Jubilee, he was calling people to celebrate. π Our task is to bring the joy of Christ into situations of darkness, the hope of Christ into situations of despair.
11. [11.](#) IV. A RECONCILING GOSPEL π Immediately after declaring his mandate, in Luke 4:18, Jesus began to talk about ministering to Gentiles. v The jubilee is reconciling. v That is the basis for a multicultural church. V. AN ECONOMIC GOSPEL
 12. [12.](#) 3. Jubilee in the Acts Community FIRST PRINCIPLE: CELEBRATION SECOND PRINCIPLE: SHARING THIRD PRINCIPLE: FORSAKING FOURTH PRINCIPLE: MEETING NEEDS FIFTH PRINCIPLE: PRIVATE OWNERSHIP WITHOUT POSSESSIVENESS SIXTH PRINCIPLE: VOLUNTARY GIVING SEVENTH PRINCIPLE: THE EQUALIZING GOSPEL
 13. [13.](#) Summary of Principles of Kingdom Economics Principle Genesis/ Jubilee Gospels & Acts Epistles 1. Creativity God the creator Spirit sets free 2. Work God works Labour in gospel Work with hands (1 Thes 4:11) 3. Rest God rests Jubilee come 4. Productivity Good outcomes 5. Cooperative Economics Let us make Sharing Provide for others 6 Redistribut'n for Equality Jubilee –return of land Tithing No needy one Weekly Giving Global redist'n (2 Cor 8,9) Simplicity 7. Savings & Debt Jubilee cancels debts Debts cancelled Owe no man 8. Celebration It was good Worship daily 9. Ownership / Own home / Forsake all, / Provide family (Levites) yet own home (1 Tim 5:8)
 14. [14.](#) I Tim 6:6-10 Principle of Simplicity A Lifestyle of Simplicity Earn much Consume Little Hoard Nothing Give Generously Celebrate Life
 15. [15.](#) 4. Jubilee and International Redistribution (2 Corinthians 8,9) πThe principles of Jubilee v as evidenced in Jesus community v then in the Acts community v are further extended globally in Paul's teaching on global redistribution between the churches
 16. [16.](#) Sacrificial Simple Lifestyles International Redistribution II Cor 8,9
 17. [17.](#) What to Do? π Repent