Week 22

Title: PRISONER

By: Njiba Tirado

Verses: Ephesians 4:1-3

As someone who has never been to prison, I can only rely on what I have seen in entertainment or those who previously have been prisoners. In the series Prison Break, the main characters are working through each episode to escape prison, no matter the cost. Those who have been to prison often say they couldn’t wait to be out of prison. Yet in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 1, Paul enthusiastically proclaims himself as the prisoner of the Lord. Because there is such a negative connotation with the word prisoner, it’s hard to imagine being a prisoner of the Lord. Yet Paul demonstrates that his allegiance to Christ was sealed by the Holy Spirit and he not only functioned through God’s power but also under God’s authority. What does functioning under God’s authority look like you might ask?

Paul answers that question in verse 2 by reminding us to walk worthy of our calling as children of God. Under God’s authority and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to exude characteristics of lowliness, gentleness, and longsuffering as we bear with one another in love. Why?

As stated in verse 3, we must keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. In Ephesisans chapter 2, Paul tells us that apart from Christ we were dead in our trespasses. We walked according to our flesh and believe me, our flesh has a proclivity towards disunity. But in Christ, Paul fervently implores Christ’s followers to endeavor to be representative of the Lord, a God of unity and peace. May we choose to be prisoner of what God love and renounce that which God hates.

**QUESTION:**

Who in your life needs to experience God’s longsuffering and love through you?

**WALK IT OUT:**

This week, go out of your way to be a unifier and peace maker in the lives of your friends and family.

**PRAYER**

Lord thank you that in Christ we are no longer imprisoned by our sins. Thank you that when we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, we can become prisoners of you- living according to your word by the power of your Spirit. Help me to love what you love and hate what you hate. Guide me to be the best representative of Jesus Christ, walking worthy of the calling with which I am called. Amen.