

Audio Transcription:

40 Days, Week 5

HS = Hannah Schindler

LD = Lyli Dunbar

Music

HS: Hi and welcome, friends! If you are studying with us live, then you know First 5 and Online Bible Studies are doing this study together! If you're doing this at a later date, whether it's in an archived OBS study or in the First 5 app, we're so excited you are here. Each weekend, we have an audio teaching to connect the chapters we studied this past week. This is where we will be able to dig deeper into the Scripture and content we studied together. So we just finished Week 5 of our study, *The Answers to Your Deepest Longings: 40 Days through the Bible*. My name is Hannah Schindler, and I get to serve on the First 5 team here at Proverbs 31 Ministries. Today we have joining us one of our First 5 writers, Lyli Dunbar. How are you today, Lyli?

LD: I'm great, Hannah. I'm so excited to be here! This is such a great study.

HS: I know. I have absolutely loved it! I'm so glad that you were here for Week 5 as Jesus enters in to the longing for redemption. I can't wait for your teaching, but let me read our Major Moments before we jump in.

- Matthew 1: Fulfilling our longing for redemption, Jesus, God the Son, was born a man.
- Mark 1: Jesus was baptized by John "to fulfill all righteousness."
- Luke 4: Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.
- Matthew 7: Jesus preached one of His many sermons on the side of a mountain that we have come to know as the "Sermon on the Mount."
- Mark 9: Jesus was transfigured and announced by the Father to be His Son.

HS: Okay, Lyli. I'd love for you to go ahead and let us know your title as you're jumping into your teaching today.

LD: Thanks, Hannah. I've titled my teaching "Three Ways to Live in Light of Our Redemption." I'm so enjoying this fabulous study — the Study Guide that y'all have put together for our 40 days. I just want to thank the P31 team for their hard work on it; I have so enjoyed digging in there. We've been looking at the longings — the longings of our heart — and that we find full satisfaction in Christ alone. But, you know, every day, the brokenness of sin has impacted our world, and it's impacted our lives. Sin separates us from God. This week, we focused on God's plan to address those longings

that we have and the sin and the brokenness — His plan of redemption. God loves us so much that Christ took on flesh and He came to rescue us. Our Redeemer laid down His very life and paid the price for our sin in full to bring total restoration to our relationship. I think it mentions in the study guide that C. S. Lewis calls this “the great exchange.” We were slaves to sin, but because of Christ, now we are sons and daughters of God. Christ made a way for us, and now we are called to live redeemed lives.

LD: Now maybe, like me, you have a relationship in your life that needs redemption — that is fractured because of sin. You long to see someone you love yield their life to Jesus and receive Him as Savior and experience that redemption that you have. Christ has set us free, but we still love people who are in bondage and desperately need Him. I spent a whole week looking at all the verses in the Bible on Christ and redemption during a week where I was on my knees praying for a loved one, and I found great encouragement from the example of Christ. Today I want to share three ways that we can live in light of our redemption in those hard relationships in our lives.

LD: Are you ready? Let’s do this! Turn with me to Mark 10, and let’s read verse 45 together. The word “ransomed” is used here in this verse. Ransom, in the original Greek, means “to pay the price and loosen from bondage.” Christ took on our punishment and paid for our sins to set us free from the bondage to sin. This is one of the key verses in the Gospel on how Christ is our Redeemer. It says, *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45). So Christ paid my ransom. He paid my price. I’m incredibly thankful that I am no longer a slave to sin. I am a child of God!

HS: Mm-hmm.

LD: But this verse also says that Christ came to serve. As I kept reading this verse in my preparation for today’s teaching, I clearly heard the Holy Spirit tell me, “You, Lyli, are here to serve.” And I’m going to confess that I am walking through a very, very difficult season where someone in my life is making really unhealthy decisions, and it’s heartbreaking. My natural instinct is to just close myself off, to protect myself from the pain and the disappointment. But I can’t fight for redemption in this relationship unless I’m willing to serve –

HS: Mmm.

LD: — even though it’s hard. Christ modeled serving others for us over and over again, but the one story that I think about the most – the one that sticks with me and reminds me I don’t have an excuse – is just a few days before He laid His life down on the cross as a ransom for us all. In John 13, we see Jesus take on the role of a humble servant. He grabs a wash basin – this is unthinkable to me – and a towel, and He washes the

dirty feet of the 12 disciples. He washes the feet of Peter, and He knew that Peter was about to deny him. He knew that Peter was about to say, “I don’t even know him.” And He held in His hands the feet of Judas, who’s about to do the unthinkable and betray Him. Jesus saw their hearts, but He still washed their feet. If you look in this chapter, verses 14 and 15, Jesus says, *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you”* (John 13:14-15). Humble service – my humble service — speaks louder than anything I may have to say as I am fighting for redemption in difficult relationships.

LD: Turn with me to **1 John [3]** where I found a passage that really drove home this point for me. Let’s look at verses 16-18 together. Here, the apostle John says, *“By this we know love, that he”* — Jesus — *“laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for [our] brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth”* (1 John 3:16-18). I was super convicted by the phrase here that says, *“...[he] closes his heart against him.”* It’s so easy to develop the calloused heart in difficult relationships. We don’t want to be hurt, so we put this protective shell around our hearts, and we step back; we shrink back. And that’s just what the enemy of our soul wants us to do. He wants us to stop fighting for redemption in those difficult relationships: to give in to discouragement and bitterness, to stop serving, to stop loving and stop pressing in. Here, John clearly tells us we are to love; we are to serve; we are to lay down our lives just like Jesus. I’m so thankful that Jesus helps us do those hard things, right? So this is the first way we live in light of our redemption.

LD: Number two doesn’t get any easier. I’m thankful that Jesus helps me do those hard things. Turn with me to Ephesians 1, and let’s read verses 7 and 8 to discover number two. This is how we can follow Christ’s example of redemption. Here, Paul is writing to the believers in Ephesus, and he says, *“In him”* — in Christ — *“we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses”* — our sins — *“according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight”* (Ephesians 1:7-8). When I looked up the word “redemption” here, the definition in the original Greek was “a release affected by payment of a ransom.” The blood of Christ has paid for my forgiveness of my sins. He’s released us. When we put our faith in Christ as our Savior, we’re released from the guilt; we’re released from the condemnation; we’re released from the eternal punishment. All of our sins, past, present and future, are fully forgiven. It’s an extravagant, lavish gift of God’s grace. I have insufficient words to describe just how amazing that is. As a people who have been forgiven, we’re called to be forgivers.

LD: This is the second way the Holy Spirit impressed on me that I need to be fighting for redemption in this hard relationship. Christ didn’t forgive me because I deserved it. I

think it's Romans 5:8 that says, "...*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). Now I've seen this verse posted on social media accounts where people post a picture with this verse and then it's captioned underneath "He loved me at my darkest." And that's beautiful, but here's the thing, I'm called to love and forgive others at their darkest too.

HS: Mmm.

LD: This week, we looked at Christ and the Sermon on the Mount, right? (Matthew 5-7) One of the days, we dug into the Life of Christ. Jesus tells us so many things about how we're supposed to live, but He talks about the power of forgiveness in our relationships, particularly in Chapter 6, where He gives us the model prayer. I can't read all the verses, but there's one line in particular, verse 12, in the actual prayer, where He says, "*forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*" (Matthew 6:12). If you want to look at Matthew 6 on your own, He goes on to talk more about forgiveness after the prayer. Now, I grew up going to a small Hispanic Presbyterian church in Miami where we used to say that prayer in Spanish out loud every Sunday. In Spanish it reads, "*Perdónanos nuestras deudas, como también nosotros hemos perdonado a nuestros deudores*" (Matthew 6:12). So hey, I can say it in two languages!

[laughing]

LD: But, you know what I've discovered, Hannah? I've discovered it's not as easy to live as it is to say.

HS: Mmm. Yeah!

LD: Extending forgiveness to someone who's not really done anything to deserve it — that defies my limited understanding. I just don't want to do it! Everything in me says, "No!"

HS: Mm-hmm.

LD: But that is the gospel. That's what Christ did for me. Christ has freely forgiven you and me. He's forgiven us all. And now He calls on us to not hold back and to forgive one another. A great passage to commit to memory on this subject of redemption and forgiveness is in Ephesians 4. So let's turn there and let's look at verses 30-32. Here, Paul says, "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*" (Ephesians 4:30-32). You know, I can complain a lot about the grief that difficult people in my life can cause me. I can sulk — and I do often — and I can focus on how I am not being treated fairly. But here, the

Word of God says that when I harbor unforgiveness in my heart, I'm the one that's causing grief. I'm grieving the Holy Spirit and the work of redemption that He wants to do. I think it's Romans 2:4 that says that it's God's kindness that leads to repentance. But how is my family member who's lost, or my pesky coworker, or my difficult neighbor going to experience God's kindness and forgiveness unless I'm willing to display it? I have to step in with God's forgiveness. I'm the one whose there to show it. So it's hard. We've covered two hard things, right?

HS: Mmm.

LD: Two very **hard** ways I'm super convicted — by my own study of these passages and the redemption that Christ has done in our lives — we're called to live in light of our redemption, and I've got one more. Turn with me to Colossians 1. So far we've talked about how Christ paid the price for us, He was our ransom, He came to serve, and we're called to serve and wash feet. Then, we looked at how redemption means release. We've been fully forgiven by God and because of the work of Jesus, we look most like Jesus when we are forgiving. So now, for number three, let's start here with verse 13. Paul tells us to remember that we have been delivered. God *"delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son,"* Jesus, our Redeemer (Colossians 1:13). This entire chapter is a testament on how God transforms our lives when we put our faith in him. I wish we could read the whole chapter, but we can't, so y'all just go and read it on your own this weekend.

LD: Let's take a look at a couple of key verses that really encouraged me as I was thinking about how I can live in light of the redemption that Christ has given me. So look at verse 23, for example. Here, Paul charges us to *"continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, [and] not [shift] from the hope of the gospel"* (Colossians 1:23). Then if you look down at verses 27-29, we see where he says that we're *"to make known...Christ in [us], the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27). So, my friends, we are a people who have been delivered, we've been redeemed, and we're here to proclaim that there is hope in Jesus. There is hope in Jesus!

LD: In Romans 5, Paul says we were once enemies of God, but Christ gave His life on the cross and now His love has been poured into our lives, and we have peace with God (Romans 5:1-11). It says we have been reconciled. That's a big word that talks about God's divine work of redemption in our lives. It means we've been changed. It means we've been restored. It means we are not the people we once were. We have peace with God, and we can tell other people that they can have that same peace as well. There are so many people out there who are still longing: longing to find hope, to find peace and to know that they are fully loved. We can tell them that that is not a dream — that is the truth of the Gospel. That's why Jesus came and laid down His life to rescue us all.

LD: You know, at church, we sing a song of redemption that's taken from the scriptural truth in Romans 8:15. It says, "I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God." I've been redeemed. We've been adopted into God's family, and now our hearts cry "Abba!" He's fulfilled those longings by giving us Himself. In verses 17 and 18 in Romans 8, we see that it says we are "*heirs with Christ*" and we have a future glory (Romans 8:17-18). One day, Jesus is coming back, and our redemption will be complete, but until then, we're supposed to wait with hope — I think that's in verse 25. Then there's those wonderful verses at the end of Romans 8 that reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). So in light of our redemption, we live with hope in Christ and we proclaim that we have hope in Christ.

LD: We used to sing a hymn in church back in the day; It was called "Redeemed." It said, "Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it. Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. Redeemed through His infinite mercy. His child and forever I am." Then there was a line in the third verse that says, "His love is the theme of my song." So friends, I have a Savior who gave all for my redemption, and I want to live with that same passion. I want His love to be the theme of my life so that others can see that they don't have to be a slave to sin. They can turn from slavery to sin to right relationship and full restoration with God. And, like Christ came to serve, so I want to pray for that servant's heart in those hard spaces. My sins have been covered by the blood of Christ. I'm praying that He will help me to extend His grace: even when I don't feel it; even when it's hard, and freely forgive because He forgave me. I have hope today because I have been delivered. I am no longer a slave to sin; I am a child of God. God has poured His love into my life and into my heart, and now that overflows. I am here to proclaim that I have hope because I have a Savior. We are all here to proclaim that we have a hope that Jesus has changed our lives. We are redeemed!

HS: Mmm. Amen! Yes! I almost started singing some of the songs along, but I realized I would – no one would ever listen to another audio teaching, so I refrained. Lyli, this was so wonderful. I've definitely had those people in my life before who have been difficult — maybe family members, friends, whoever it is. I love how you started with first, we can serve, and Christ modeled serving over and over again. And again forgiving — Christ showed us this. I love even — back to serving — when you said Jesus saw their hearts, but He still washed their feet. I think that is so incredibly powerful. What an amazing analogy or imagery to show us that we can still serve those even if we see their hearts. Thankfully, we don't have to have that job, that's the Lord's, but we do have the job to serve. I want to say thank you so much, Lyli, for this teaching. Thank you. I know that it's not fun having someone in our life, maybe, that you're walking through that with, but you approached this with such grace. I just want to say thank you for this teaching today.

LD: Hey, it was a joy to really look at all these verses that have to do with the redemption that God's done in our lives. You know, all those longings and yearnings that we have, they're fulfilled in Him. I realize that I can't do life without Him. When I start to try to do life without Him, that's when I end up wanting to not want to get out of bed in the morning because I can't deal with all the hard things. But His love, His Holy Spirit empowers us to do these things. He has not left us here to do the work of redemption on our own. So we have to abide in Him, right, and just let Him fill us with His love, then trust that He's going to do the work even though we feel like we're inadequate. This week has really been transformational seeing how far we've come through the days we've looked at so far in our study. I'm looking forward to what's ahead.

HS: Amen! Me too! Friends, I am going to read the Lord's Prayer as our prayer today. I think there's such beauty in praying and reading Scripture. If you have your Bibles with you — if you want to turn to Matthew 6, I would encourage you, like it says before it gets to the Lord's Prayer, go into a private place. In verse 6, it says, *"...when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you"* (Matthew 6:6). I'm going to jump down, *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:9-15). Lord, Thank You! Thank You for Your Word. Thank You for all that you have done in our lives, You are doing, and You will do. Lord, just bless our day ahead. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.