

Uncommon Season | Release Series | (re)leased

A New Lease on Life Through Jesus

Echo Church | Week 16 | April 20, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr.

Luke 24:44-48 (NKJV)

"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.'"

Introduction

What would you do if someone handed you the keys to a brand-new car? No payments. No strings attached. Just the keys and a full tank of gas. Sounds incredible, right? But here's my question for you, family—what good are those keys if you don't drive the car? What good is a gift if you never use it?

This is what happens when we don't live out the reality of the resurrection. Jesus paid the ultimate price to release you from sin and give you a brand-new lease on life. But the question is, are you *living* like someone who knows the tomb is empty? The resurrection wasn't just an event; it was an announcement. It proclaimed that you've been set free, that God has given you the keys, and that your life has a purpose.

Today, we're going to unpack what it means to live (re)leased—freed from what held you back, empowered to walk in purpose, and entrusted to share this message of hope with the world.

Context

Luke 24 drops us into a pivotal moment. Jesus has been resurrected, but His disciples are still processing the events of the cross. They're confused. They've lost focus. And then Jesus shows up and changes everything. He reminds them that everything written about Him had to happen. He connects the dots between Scripture and His mission. Then, He drops the mic with a commission they weren't ready for.

"You are witnesses of these things."

Translation? You've seen the power of the resurrection. You've experienced its life-changing impact. Now live like it. Proclaim it. Walk it out. The same Word He gave them is what He's telling us today. Your release isn't just about what you're free from; it's about what you're free to do.

1. Released from What Held You Back

Scripture: Romans 8:1-2

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."

Family, here's the reality we need to grasp—you've been released from sin. The guilt that kept you stuck? Gone. That shame that whispered you weren't good enough? Over. The enemy wants to keep you living like you're still bound, but Jesus came to rewrite your story. The cross was payment. The resurrection was proof that the payment cleared.

Relatable Insight: Imagine someone sitting in a jail cell when the warden has already unlocked the door. That's how we often live when we don't fully recognize what Jesus has done for us. The past might try to haunt you, but it has no power. You're free to walk out of the old and into the new.

Challenge: What mindsets, mistakes, or fears are you holding onto that God has already set you free from? If you've been released, don't live like you're still incarcerated.

2. Released to Walk in Full Purpose

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

God didn't just free you for freedom's sake. He freed you because He has a plan for your life. Your life isn't an accident. It's an assignment. The disciples weren't just witnesses to the resurrection; they were carriers of its truth. Jesus entrusted them—and us—to live and share His message with the world because we're walking evidence of His power.

Relatable Insight: This is like having VIP access to something life-changing. You're not supposed to just enjoy it; you're supposed to bring others in. God designed you uniquely. Your personality, your skills, your story—He gave it all to you on purpose for purpose.

Challenge: What's keeping you from boldly living out your God-given purpose? What gifts or experiences has God given you that you haven't fully used yet? It's time to step out of fear and start walking in destiny.

3. Released to Share the Hope of Jesus

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation... Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us."

Here's the thing—this new lease on life isn't just for you. It's for everyone around you. You're a witness, which means your life is a testimony. Someone in your circle needs to see what freedom looks like. Salvation didn't stop with you; it's meant to flow *through* you.

Relatable Insight: Imagine you're dining at the best restaurant you've ever experienced. Are you going to keep it to yourself? Or are you telling everyone you know to check it out? How much more urgent is it to point others to Jesus, the one who saved your soul?

Challenge: Who in your life needs to hear about the hope of Jesus? Are you shrinking back when God is calling you to step up and share? When you've been released, your responsibility is to help others find freedom too.

Thought-Provoking Statement

Jesus didn't rise from the tomb so you could keep living like it's still occupied. He (re)leased you so you could experience freedom, walk in purpose, and change lives. The question isn't whether He set you free; the question is, are you *living* free?

Call to Salvation

I know there's someone sitting here today who feels stuck. You feel like life hasn't been working the way it should. You're carrying shame, guilt, or pain that's been weighing you down. But can I tell you something? Jesus went to the cross just for you. He died so you could leave those struggles behind and rise into a brand-new life.

The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. And the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is waiting to bring you from death to life. All you have to do is say "yes." Yes, to His love. Yes, to His purpose. Yes, to your freedom.

If you're ready for this new lease on life, don't wait. Today is your day to step into everything God has for you.

Invitation to Echo Church Family

If you made that decision, welcome to the family of God! And listen, we don't want you walking this road alone. At Echo Church, we're family. We're here to support you, encourage you, and help you grow in all that God has planned for your life.

Your story matters here. Your gifts belong here. And your future has a place right here. Welcome to the Echo Church family. Welcome home.