

Freedom

Summer at The Bayou - Part 2

July 5, 2026

Griff gave us four weeks on Romans 8, and if you missed it, here is the big picture:

*"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has **set you free** from the law of sin and death."* Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

And before there was Griff, there was Paul. And before Paul, there was Jesus.

*"You will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you **free**."*

And the people answered Him:

"We have never been slaves to anyone."

And Jesus says:

"Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." John 8:31-35

Do you want to be healed? Are you willing to be completely different than you are right now? Or do you have excuses to stay on your mat?

"⁵One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be healed?' ⁷The sick man answered Him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.' ⁸Jesus said to him, 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk.'" John 5:5-8 (ESV)

If baptism is the outward picture of transformation, then the Beatitudes give us the "how-to manual."

Matthew 5:3-10 (NIV)

*"³Blessed are the **poor** in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Palm posture of the poor will save your life. Palm up and arm extended.

*"⁴Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be comforted."*

Mourn your sin and how far away you have drifted from God.

*"⁵Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth."*

Meekness is not weakness. It is power under control. Take all of the wisdom and strength you have gained by causing chaos and protect your family with it instead.

*"⁶Blessed are those who **hunger** and **thirst** for righteousness, for they will be filled."*

Hunger for a relationship with God as though you are starving, and thirst for knowledge of His will as though you have wandered in the wilderness for years. Nothing less urgent will work.

*“⁷Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.”*

Once Jesus shows you mercy for all you have done and what you have become, how dare you deny another child of God the same mercy? You can't keep it if you don't give it away.

*“⁸Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.”*

Be mindful of what you allow to enter your body. What you eat, drink, listen to and watch all influences how you think. Your thoughts control your actions; your actions form your character.

*“⁹Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God.”*

There is a big difference between peacemaking and peacekeeping. God does not call you to be a passive, complacent peacekeeper. You are called to make peace.

*“¹⁰Blessed are those who are **persecuted because of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

When you decide to walk differently in the light of Jesus, you will be persecuted, because the world will simply not understand who you are or whose you are.

God wants to transform your past and your pain into your purpose, but you must be willing to transform into the new creation God has intended you to be.

Tips For Transformation

- 1. Palm posture will save your life.**
- 2. Change takes time because change takes practice.**
- 3. You can't make anyone trust you, your job is to be trustworthy.**
- 4. Integrity is forged in private, before it's ever found in public.**

Look again at John Chapter 5 – right after Jesus heals the man at the pools.

“⁸ ... Jesus told him, 'pick up your mat and walk.' ⁹Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk.” John 5:8-9 (CSB)

Why?

Because the mat was his testimony. Jesus was saying “Go and show the world what I have done for you.**”**

Your Testimony is the most powerful tool you have to show someone who Christ is and what He has done for you.

The mat you are having a hard time getting rid of was never meant to be your identity. It was meant to be your testimony.