Date: 7/2/16

Title: Independence Day

Theme: Jesus started His ministry with a declaration of independence, just like our country.

Object: Picture of the original Declaration of Independence.

Text: John 8:36 (NKJV) Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Who knows what holiday we’re celebrating this weekend?

The 4th of July comes on Monday this year, and it is a very important day in the history of our country.

Every year on July 4th, we celebrate the birthday of our country.

It is called Independence Day. It is the day our country declared its independence from Great Britain.

Great Britain is a country way across the Atlantic Ocean, and when people first came to live in America, they formed colonies in 13 different states.

And Great Britain claimed that these colonies belonged to them, and that we had to obey their king and pay the taxes that the king said we had to pay.

After a while, the people living here in America didn’t want to obey the king of Gr. Britain anymore, and they were sick of paying taxes to him.

So the 13 colonies got together and declared themselves free from the king of Gr. Britain.

On July 4th in 1776, they voted to accept the Declaration of Independence.

Here’s a copy of the Declaration of Independence. [Show copy]

One of the most famous lines in this document says this: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

On that day (July 4, 1776), the United States of America was established as a free and independent country, where we don’t have to obey the king of Gr. Britain or pay him taxes.

This year, on July 4th, our country will be 240 years old.

Today, everyone is happy that we can live in a free country, we can make our own laws, and we can be free from the king.

Did you know that Jesus had a “Declaration of Independence” too?

When He began to preach the kingdom of God, He went into the church in His home town, Nazareth, and here’s what He read from the book of Isaiah:

Luke 4:18 (NKJV) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me, To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed.

This is Jesus’ declaration of how He would set us free.

Those who don’t know the saving power of Jesus are the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the blind, the oppressed.

Without Jesus we are captives of Satan, headed for the lake of fire.

We are bound to him by our sins, and there is nothing we can do to free ourselves from him.

But the gospel is that Jesus died for our sins.

And when we are sorry for our sins and ask Him to forgive us, He will, if we love Him and trust Him.

So Jesus not only declared that we could be free from sin and Satan’s control, He died on the cross so that we really could be free.

“If the Son [Jesus] makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Would you like Jesus to make you free from Satan and sin?

That’s the best independence day you could ever have, because it gives you eternal life instead of eternal death.