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A friend and supporter of Free Riders Press was injured in a crash this last month. Rich Cooney attended many of the bike nights around the Stevens Point area. This is a request for all readers of FRP to pray for our friend and fellow biker. He is a Marine Rider and a member of the Patriot Guard. Also a moment for our troops who are serving around the world. AMEN

Freedom

Jaysee rode into town and parked the Knucklehead in front of one of his favorite meeting places. He liked coming into town this way because the noise irritated the authorities, and excited the children. The Knuck almost always attracted a crowd, and he enjoyed spending the afternoon visiting with friends and talking about the ideas that were important to him. He knew that his entrance would signal his friends to come on over, and that some of his enemies would come around as well. Jaysee never could resist the opportunity to speak up for right and expose hypocrisy when he saw it, and the presence of a number of lawyers in town that day added to his excitement. He knew that they couldn't stand him and his "free riding" lifestyle, and that they would find some way to try to put him in jail. All they seemed to want was to control people, and if someone didn't bow before them, they'd wind up on the list. Too free! That was Jaysee.

It didn't take long to get to the showdown. Today it would be a war of words over the interpretation of truth. The authorities thought they had him dead to rights, but Jaysee turned their own words against them. He knew that the very thing the lawyers condemned, they were guilty of as well, and he pointed this out before the whole town. It turned out that they weren't really interested in justice; they just wanted to take away his freedom, his ability to ride the wind, and his penchant for speaking the truth. They considered him a rabble rouser, who was leading the rest of the population to disregard the law of the land. In reality, the only laws that Jaysee opposed were those man-made ordinances which were passed to take away man's freedom and keep him under the control of the powerful. Jaysee had met the enemy and won his case on principle, without a shot being fired. He knew there would be other attacks, but today he had put the lawyers to shame.

Now he had all these wannabes wanting to join up with him, perceiving that if they hung with him, they would be as free as he was. They were even claiming that they were his "brothers in the wind." These guys weren't committed to him or his ideas - they just wanted to be free of responsibility. We think that there is strength in numbers, but Jaysee

knew that to include any who were not fully committed would be useless. In fact, they would only be in the way, and a danger to themselves and to him. It was very difficult to leave them behind, but even harder to try and explain why it was necessary. Jaysee knew that freedom was more than the ability to do whatever, whenever. If freedom is not based on certain ideals, it really isn't freedom. Jaysee knew that they were still under the influence, and could never become free without a change of heart. Until they believed in the same ideals he did, they would never be able to ride with him or share his lifestyle.

There are many who have the right to freedom, but are still in bondage to one lie or another. We claim to be free, and yet we have so many man-made rules that restrict our liberty. We often wonder what our forefathers really gave their lives for. Even in these days, nobody wants to hear the truth about the cost of freedom. It's not just about what others have paid for our liberty that matters. It has to do with what each of us is willing to commit of ourselves to stay free. Jaysee tried to tell them these things, but they couldn't hear him.

We celebrated our freedom and independence this last month, and it is important that we really understand what we enjoy, or we will lose it. The freedom we enjoy has been secured by the blood of patriots through the centuries, and will be continually assaulted by those interested in placing us in bondage again. As we celebrate our liberty, please be reminded that the responsibility for staying free rests on our willingness to not use our liberty as a license to do wrong. Let's realize that our national freedom is a reflection of the spiritual freedom offered us by our Father in heaven, through Jesus Christ, who secured it with his blood. He died so we could live free. Jesus said these words:

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:36)

This freedom from sin and hell is offered to all who will receive it in Jesus Christ. Will you be free?

Pastor Sam

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