

You are redeemed.

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for 7 am gracious and merciful. JI 2:12-13 ROOTED RIST

I remember the day I got the news. "Jay Weaver, a bassist and vocalist for the Christian band Big Daddy Weave, has died from complications due to Covid-19, his brother and fellow band member Mike Weaver announced on social media.

He was 42.

"Hey everybody. Thank you so much for all your prayers for my brother," Mike Weaver <u>said in a video posted on the band's verified Instagram</u> <u>account.</u> "You have walked with him through a huge fight, and I'm so sorry to bring this news but I'm also excited to celebrate where he is right now. My brother Jay went to be with Jesus just a couple hours ago due to complications due to COVID-19 on top of everything else he had going on," Weaver said.

I'll shake off these heavy chains, wipe away every stain, I'm not who I used to be.

Big Daddy Weave is the voice of the Gospel. With nearly *50 million* hits on the official YouTube video for the single "I am Redeemed," Mike and Jay Weaver reach to the margins in proclaiming the Good News.

The lyrics repeat: "I'll shake off these heavy chains, wipe away every stain. I'm not who I used to be. I am redeemed."

As we come to the final week of Lent before Holy Week, we hear the story of the woman caught in adultery. She was aware of the stain of sin, her own bad choices and failings. She deserved to be stoned. And yet, in the eyes of Jesus, she, too, was redeemed.

And so are you.



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