

We Are Free To Be A Slave?

Context, Context, Context:

Exodus 21:1-11

What It Meant To Them Then:

Leviticus 25:39 Exodus 21:7 2 Kings 4:1 Exodus 22:3-4

The 4 main reasons for Hebrew servants:

- ❶ **Extreme poverty**
- ❷ **Daughter to be married**
- ❸ **Bankruptcy**
- ❹ **Restitution**

What It Means To Us Now:

Exodus 21:5-6 John 15:12-17 Romans 1:1 James 1:1 2 Peter 1:1 Jude 1:1 Psalm 73

- ✓ We were **bought** and **freed** at a great **price**.
- ✓ We have the power to exercise our **free will**, and live **freely**.
- ✓ Choosing Jesus is choosing a life of **service**, on his **terms**.

Why Would Anyone Give Up Their Freedom?

Exodus 21:5-6 Matthew 16:24-27 John 6:66-69 Romans 12:1-2

- ❶ We are all **mastered** by something...
our **freedom** comes in choosing what that is.
- ❷ It all depends on who the **Master is**.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 24, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Agree or disagree - True service should have a cost?
2. We all have different perspectives and experiences when it comes to following Christ. Sometimes we feel the "freedom we have in Christ" while other times it's just what we're obligated to do. How is this similar or dissimilar to your experience?
3. Can you think of any examples in your life when following a rule or law brought you freedom?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard how God's laws for servants were not about oppression, but rather ensuring value, respect and proper treatment of individuals and relationships. No doubt that gives relief to all of us! Yet even with that good news, doesn't it still remain true that most of us don't mind being a servant as long as we're not treated like one? Jesus gives some insight into the attitude and treatment of a true servant. What do the following passages say about the kind of mindset that we should strive for as servants of God?

Luke 17:7-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁷ "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Matthew 20:20-28 *New International Version (NIV)*

A Mother's Request

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

What do you find most challenging about the attitude expressed in these verses?

2. When we serve others just as Christ served us, it not only pleases God but also helps our relationships and life go better. That alone is great incentive for us. As you read through the verses below, what other incentives and positive results occur when we serve others?

Matthew 5:16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 15:8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

1 Peter 2:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Matthew 10:42 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

Rate the verses above on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being the most motivational in serving others.

3. Service in action can take on many forms. Write down how the following verses define service in action? Then see if you can think of an example of how it could be seen in your day-to-day life experiences.

Luke 6:27-31 *New International Version (NIV)*

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

1 Corinthians 9:19 *New International Version (NIV)*

Paul's Use of His Freedom

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

Have you ever put one of the actions you listed above into practice and seen it result in a new found freedom rather than just something you were suppose to do? If so, explain.

TAKING IT HOME

1. As a result of this weekend's message or homework, is there someone you should begin to put first or somewhere you should begin to serve in a greater way?

2. If you had to stop serving for the next three weeks, what might those around you miss in the following areas?

Home

Work

School

Social Settings

Are there any "acts of service" you'd like to add to the list?

Prayer Requests:

⇒

⇒

⇒
