

THE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SLAVE

Matthew 25:21-22

INTRODUCTION

- A. Slavery today evokes a picture of racism and abuse.
- B. Slavery during the Roman Empire, was not the same.
 - 1. It has been suggested that between 8-10% of the empire's population were slaves, representing approx. 5 million individuals.
 - 2. Slaves were obtained by military victory or in payment of debt.
- C. Jesus used slavery in teaching spiritual realities of discipleship.
 - 1. The word "servant" should be translated as "slave" [unfree].
 - 2. Discipleship is a life of total self-denial, wholehearted devotion, a willingness to obey His commands in everything, an eagerness to serve, and a motivation that comes from knowing He is well pleased.
 - 3. A slave's life was one of complete surrender, submission, and service to the master.
 - 4. And Christ invites us to the same type of life.
 - a. Matthew 24:44-46
 - b. Luke 6:46; 12:37
 - c. Luke 16:13

I. EXCLUSIVE OWNERSHIP.

- A. Sinful Past.
 - 1. We were born as slaves of sin. Romans 5:18-19; Ephesians 2:1-3
 - 2. Inherited an enslaved state from Adam.
 - 3. Purchased by the blood of Christ, 1 Corinthians 6:20.
 - 4. No longer under the authority of sin, Romans 6:14.
- B. A People for His Own Possession.
 - 1. Titus 2:14
 - 2. Gal. 5:24, belong to Christ Jesus.
 - 3. Given a new name, Rev. 3:12; 22:4.
 - a. Toy Story, Woody has Andy's name written on him.
 - b. Under ownership of Christ.

II. COMPLETE SUBMISSION.

- A. Obey the Person in Every Way.
 - 1. The slave's duty was to carry out the master's wishes.
 - 2. The faithful slave was eager to do so without hesitation or complaint.
 - 3. Slaves had no rights of their own.
- B. Submission to the Lordship of Christ.
 - 1. 1 John 2:3, know Him *if* we keep His commandments.
 - 2. Romans 12:1, holy sacrifice
 - 3. 1 John 1:6, if we say we have fellowship...
 - 4. Slaves of our own appetites, Rom. 16:18

III. SINGULAR DEVOTION.

- A. Carry Out the Master's Will.

1. Direct commands, required to obey.
 2. Indirect commands, please the master as best they could.
- B. Fully Devoted to Christ.
1. Mark 12:30
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:9

IV. TOTAL DEPENDENCE.

- A. Necessities of Life.
1. Slaves were completely dependent on their masters for all necessities of life.
 2. Slaves never had to “find” food to eat or a “place” to sleep.
 3. They could focus entirely on serving their master.
- B. Trust God to Meet Our Needs.
1. Matthew 6:31-33
 2. Paul the “perfect” example of total dependence on God.
 - a. Philippians 4:6, 13
 - b. 1 Timothy 6:8
 - c. 2 Corinthians 9:8
 - d. 2 Corinthians 12:9

V. PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

- A. Accountable to Owners.
1. The master’s evaluation was the only one that mattered.
 2. If the master was pleased – reward of great benefits.
 3. A lifetime of faithfulness – possibly the reward of freedom.
 - d. If the master was displeased: punishment.
- B. Stand Before Christ.
1. Romans 14:12, each will give an account.
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:10, according to his deeds.
 3. Will receive reward.
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:8
 - b. Matthew 25:21, 23