

Which Master?

Insights on Exodus 21:1-11

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, April 2nd, 2017

4 Reasons for Hebrew servants:

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

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Which master will we choose?

1. We choose what _____

(Romans 6:15-23, Joshua 24:14-15)

2. Jesus calls us _____

(John 15:12-17, James 2:23, 4:8)

3. Jesus gives us _____

(John 10:10, 6:66-69, Matthew 16:24-27)

4. Jesus paid a _____

(Isaiah 53:5, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Galatians 3:13-14)

Final Question:

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 12” of our Small Group Session!

Our small group quarter is almost through! We pray it has been a time of great benefit and growth as you have studied God’s word together. Next week is our last week of small groups before we start back up the week of May 7th.

Getting Started:

1. We have been walking through Exodus seeing God do incredible things. In chapter 20 we see God descending on the mountain in fire and speaking to the whole assembly of Israel. Then when Moses approaches God to receive the rest of the law, the very first thing God gives to Moses is laws regarding slaves. What was your initial reaction to this passage as you read it? Why do you think God put this first?
2. Our country prides itself in its freedoms. We have brave men and women who have fought and died for our right to be free. This past weekend it was taught that Spiritually speaking our freedom is getting to decide which master we will serve: Sin or Righteousness. What is your reaction to this simplification of freedom? Can we find freedom in serving a master?
3. Agree or disagree- true service should have a cost?

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

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 us 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

- Matthew 20:20-28

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

- John 15:8

- 1 Peter 2:12

- Matthew 10:42

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

What keeps us from doing what these verses are teaching?

3. This past weekend we heard that we have a choice in whom our master is going to be. We can either choose to be servants of sin, which is the natural state we are born into, or we can be servants of righteousness. Read together Romans 6:15-23. How does this help shape our choice in masters? How does this passage encourage you to keep living as servants of righteousness even though at times it is very difficult?

4. John 10:10 sums up very well the difference between the two masters. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." This master, Jesus, who comes to give us life asks us to lay down our life to follow him, and when we lay down our life we find true life according to Matthew 16:24-27. The question we wrestled with at the end of the message this week was; Do we love this master who has done all of this for us? If we love our master how is this lived out in our day to day lives? Give examples from your own life on how you display your love for your master.

Wrapping Up:

Based on last week's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.