

SLAVERY IN SCRIPTURE

SLAVERY, SERVITUDE, AND THE GOSPEL

Sermon Questions

1. Christianity is criticized because there is slavery in the Bible. (True/False)
2. Christianity, more than any other factor, was responsible for the end of slavery. (True/False)
3. List two kinds of slavery that existed in the ancient world: _____
4. Slavery existed in _____ before settlers arrived and after slavery was abolished.
5. The two main reasons a Hebrew would enter servitude were: (1) unpaid _____; and (2) _____.
6. While all abuse is wrong, indentured servitude is a just arrangement. (True/False)
7. Permanent slavery or servitude in Israel were only for those who _____ to remain in that state.
8. Circle the following laws if they match what we see in the Bible (Exodus 21, Leviticus 25, etc):
 - i. Owning a fellow Israelite as property is forbidden.
 - ii. Stealing a person to enslave them merits the death penalty.
 - iii. Owning a person who was stolen and forced into slavery merits the death penalty.
 - iv. Abusing a slave or servant so that he dies merits the death penalty.
 - v. Abusing a slave or servant such that they are seriously injured, the slave is to be set free.
 - vi. Runaway slaves ought to be protected and not returned to their masters.
9. The law has no power to stop sin, but only to _____ it.
10. We, like Israel, ought to have compassion on those around us. (True/False)
11. Slavery is a fitting picture for the redemption accomplished by _____.
12. We are all born slaves. (True/False)
13. We will always be slaves. Either slaves of _____ or slaves of _____.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the biblical practice of indentured servitude in Deuteronomy 15 differ from the chattel slavery most of us immediately think of? Why is it important to make this distinction when defending or explaining the Bible's teaching on slavery?
2. Verse 15 commands God's people to "remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt." What experiences of hardship, failure, or "bondage" in your own life can you draw on to grow in compassion toward others (e.g., as a parent, spouse, employer, or friend)? How can remembering God's kindness to you change how you treat people under your influence or authority?
3. The sermon shows how slavery in the Old Testament becomes a powerful picture of our spiritual condition. In what ways are people today "slaves to sin," and how does the good news of Jesus' ransom and redemption free us? What does it mean practically to live as a "slave of righteousness" rather than a slave to sin, self, or other masters?
4. The sermon highlights that God's law restrained evil and pointed toward justice even in a broken world. Where in your own life, family, church, or workplace do you see opportunities to promote dignity, fairness, generosity, and freedom for others? How can the gospel message of freedom in Christ shape the way we respond to modern forms of slavery and injustice?
5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. God told His people to remember how they were slaves in Egypt so they would be kind to others. Can you think of a time when you felt sad, stuck, or had a hard time? How does remembering that moment help you show kindness and help other kids (or your brothers/sisters) when they are having a tough time?
2. The Bible says we are all born slaves to sin, but Jesus came to set us free! What does it mean that Jesus is like the rescuer who paid to set us free? If you love Jesus for rescuing you, what are some ways you can happily serve him every day, like the servant who wanted to stay with his master forever?