

New Slaves from Old Slaves

Exodus 21:1-22:15, Romans 6:15-19, Romans 6:1-6

1. After being led out of the Egyptian captivity, the Israelites at times thought of themselves as their own masters, free to do whatever they wanted. How do we in 21st century America tend to view ourselves as our own masters, free to do whatever we want?
2. In what specific ways do *you* live as if you are your own master? (Think in terms of your time, money, sexuality, relationships, vocation, short-term and long-term plans, hopes and dreams). What are one or two specific ways that you need to submit these to your true master, Jesus Christ?
3. How do the case laws in Exodus 21-22 express God's compassion toward indentured servants? How did God express compassion toward us when we were slaves to sin? Having been the object of God's compassion, how do you now tangibly show compassion toward those in bondage?
4. When might the principle of retribution be a necessary part of repentance for us as Christians? What is the difference between restitution and penance? (See Luke 19:1-10 for a New Testament example of restitution).
5. Why would God inspire Paul to use slavery as a metaphor for the Christian life? What did Paul mean to communicate to us through this kind of language? What did he *not* intend to communicate?
6. This truth that we were once slaves to sin but have now been made slaves to righteousness is an awesome truth! How do you show that you are excited about this truth to those around you every day? If you don't, how can you begin to share your excitement that you are free from your sin and have been made a slave to righteousness?
7. What are a few things that you find yourself raising to the position of "master" in your life? How does this lead you to have a distorted relationship with Christ and how can you correct this so you are living as a new slave *with* Christ?