

sermon discussion

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MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

Exodus 21:1-36

God desires his people to know what is right in *their* time and circumstances.

- These portraits are reflections of their time and circumstance, not endorsements of those things.

Read the scriptures in the context God put them in.

- Exodus 21:1-2
- Deuteronomy 15:13-14
- Exodus 21:3-4
- Exodus 21:20-21
- Exodus 21:26-27

- Exodus 21:7-11

Israel's identity guided their code on slavery.

- Exodus 1:13
- Exodus 20:1-2
- Exodus 21:5-6
- John 8:34
- Romans 6:6-8
- Romans 6:22
- Romans 1:1; James 1:1, Jude 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1 (NASB)

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. There are 613 laws in the Old Testament governing worship, clothing, diet, cleanliness, property, etc. The Israelites couldn't remember them all so they asked Jesus to boil it down for them, which he did (love God, love others). How many laws do you think are on the books in the USA? Why do you think so many laws exist?
2. **Read Exodus 21:2.** If a person had so many debts he had to sell all his land, do you think it was unjust to have him sell six years of labor to pay off his debts? Why or why not?
3. **Read Exodus 21:7-11.** Why was it unjust to free a female slave on her own in that culture?
4. How does God's Law stress the value of human life in Exodus 21:12-32?
5. Exodus 21:5-6 says if a slave is happy with his circumstance he can willingly choose to serve his master for life and enjoy the family his master has given him. **Read Philippians 2:6-8.** How did Jesus model the behavior of a slave?
6. Twenty-eight times in the New Testament the word "bond-servant" is used. At the beginning of Paul's letter to the Philippians he refers to himself and Timothy as bond-servants of Christ Jesus. What do you think Paul means by using that term to describe himself?
7. Have you ever thought of yourself as being a bond-servant of Christ? What might change if you started thinking of yourself in those terms?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE: *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."*

Matthew 5:38-39 ESV

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