

Serving the Redeemed. Part 1. Notes.

Hebrews 3:13

¹³*But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

Matt 20:25-28

²⁵*Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,(diakonos: minister) ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave (doulos: bondsman)— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Matt 20:20-28

²⁰*Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹"What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²²"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." ²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.*

²⁵*Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,(diakonos: minister) ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave (doulos: bondsman)— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Galatians 5:6, 13-14

⁶*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

¹³*You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, **serve one another in love.*** ¹⁴*The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Leviticus 19:18

¹⁸ *"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*

In this 2 part series we are going to look at:

- What is a bonds slave
- Bonds slaves in the Hebrew Scriptures
- Bonds slaves in the New Testament Scriptures
- Our application for today.

What is a bonds slave?

The Greek word for "Bonds slave" in the NT is "Doulos" and its equivalent in Hebrew is:

`ebed (transliteration) eh'·ved (pronounced: eved) A slave; one who is bound to service without wages. A servant of servants, the lowest servant (Gen 9:25).

Examples from the OT

Leviticus 25:39-46

³⁹ " 'If one of your countrymen (an Israelite) becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. (*`ebhedh*) ⁴⁰ He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹ Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers. ⁴² Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. ⁴³ Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.

⁴⁴ " 'Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. ⁴⁵ You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. ⁴⁶ You can will them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly.

Leviticus 25:55

⁵⁵ *for the Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.*

Exodus 21:2-6

² *"If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. ³ If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. ⁴ If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free.*

⁵ *"But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,' ⁶ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall*

take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

Same truth is re-iterated in Deuteronomy with additional information:

Deuteronomy 15:12-17

12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free. 13 And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed. 14 Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you. 15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.

16 But if your servant says to you, "I do not want to leave you," because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, 17 then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.

If a Hebrew servant was unwilling to leave his master he could be bound to him for life. This was a custom observed by the Jews.

Definition of Awl

1. n. A pointed instrument for piercing small holes, as in leather or wood; used by shoemakers, saddlers, cabinetmakers, etc. The blade is differently shaped and pointed for different uses, as in the *brad awl*, *saddler's awl*, *shoemaker's awl*, etc.

Picture:

<http://www.lexic.us/definition-of/awl>

Psalm 123:1-2

¹ *I lift up my eyes to you,
to you whose throne is in heaven.*

² *As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he shows us his mercy.*

- The Mosaic Law contained various regulations that protect the rights and privileges of slaves. For instance, a slave who had run away, a fugitive, was protected under the law

Deuteronomy 23:15, 16

¹⁵ *If a slave has taken refuge with you, do not hand him over to his master.*

¹⁶ *Let him live among you wherever he likes and in whatever town he chooses. Do not oppress him.*

- All the religious privileges enjoyed by the Israelites were extended to their slaves, including the rest of the Sabbath

Exodus 20:10

¹⁰ *but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.*

- the right to attend the Jewish Feasts

Deuteronomy 16:10, 11

¹⁰ *Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you. ¹¹ And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, the Levites in your towns, and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows living among you.*

Jeremiah 34:8-22

⁸ The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves. ⁹ Everyone was to free his Hebrew slaves, both male and female; no one was to hold a fellow Jew in bondage. ¹⁰ So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed that they would free their male and female slaves and no longer hold them in bondage. They agreed, and set them free. ¹¹ But afterward they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.

¹² Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ¹³ "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I made a covenant with your forefathers when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I said, ¹⁴ 'Every seventh year each of you must free any fellow Hebrew who has sold himself to you. After he has served you six years, you must let him go free.' Your fathers, however, did not listen to me or pay attention to me. ¹⁵ Recently you repented and did what is right in my sight: Each of you proclaimed freedom to his countrymen. You even made a covenant before me in the house that bears my Name. ¹⁶ But now you have turned around and profaned my name; each of you has taken back the male and female slaves you had set free to go where they wished. You have forced them to become your slaves again.

¹⁷ "Therefore, this is what the LORD says: You have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed freedom for your fellow countrymen. So I now proclaim 'freedom' for you, declares the LORD - 'freedom' to fall by the sword, plague and famine. I will make you abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth. ¹⁸ The men who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces. ¹⁹ The leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the court officials, the priests and all the people of the land who walked between the pieces of the calf, ²⁰ I will hand over to their enemies who seek their lives. Their dead bodies will become food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth.

²¹ "I will hand Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials over to their enemies who seek their lives, to the army of the king of Babylon, which has withdrawn from you. ²² I am going to give the order, declares the LORD, and I will bring them back to this city. They will fight against it, take it and burn it down. And I will lay waste the towns of Judah so no one can live there."

Exodus 32:13

Remember your **servants** Abraham, Isaac and Israel,

Josua 1:1

After the death of Moses **the servant of the Lord**, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide:

Judges 2:8

Joshua son of Nun, **the servant of the LORD**, died at the age of a hundred and ten.

2Samuel 3:18

Now do it! For the Lord promised David, 'By **my servant** David I will rescue my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.' "

Matt 20:27-28

²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave (doulos: bonds slave)— ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm

