

Serving the Redeemed. Part 2

Review last time

Matt 20:25-28

²⁵Jesus 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: 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."

There were 2 reasons that God did not want his people, the Israelites to become each other's bondslaves:

1. They were God's bondslaves

Leviticus 25:55

⁵⁵for the Israelites belong to me as servants ("ebed" bondslaves). They are my servants ("ebed' bondslaves), whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

2. Because they were all once slaves in Egypt and then God redeemed them.

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.

Tonight we are going to look at what it means to be a

- Doulos in NT
- Application for today

Definitions of “Bondslave”

Bondman, Bondmaid (Greek = “doulos” δοῦλος)

It comes from the root word *deo*, "to bind," "a slave," originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, came also to mean "one who gives himself up to the will of another," e.g.,

1 Corinthians 7:22-23

²²*For he who was a slave (doulos) when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave (doulos).*

²³*You were bought at a price; do not become slaves (doulos) of men.*

1) a slave, bondman, man of servile condition

a) a slave

b) metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will; those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men

c) devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests

Luke 14:26.

²⁶"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 16:16 (NASB)

"...since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it"(or NIV "Pressing into in").

Matthew 10:34-39

34"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn

" 'a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law -
36a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

37"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

39Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of **power**.

Attributes of a Doulos

Galatians 1:10

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please

men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant (doulos) of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:22-26

22Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24And the Lord's servant (doulos) must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

1 Corinth 4:11-13

To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world. ¹⁴I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

Luke 12:35-40

35"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37It will be good for those servants (doulos) whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

38It will be good for those servants (doulos) whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. 39But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

So what are some of the attributes of a Doulos that we have seen in these last verses?

- Not a man pleaser
- Not someone who quarrels
- Someone who is kind to all
- Able to teach
- Not resentful
- Able to gently instruct people
- Willing to work hard.
- Willing to bless when cursed
- Willing to endure when persecuted
- Willing to answer kindly when slandered.
- Someone who is prepared for our Master's return (Luke12)

Examples of Doulos in the NT

If we really want to understand more about the lifestyle of a doulos we have so many examples to read about: Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Moses, David, Paul, Timothy, Epaphras, Peter, John etc.

Philippians 2:6-8

*6Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
7but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,(doulos)*

*being made in human likeness.
8And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

Colossians 4:12-13

12Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant (doulos) of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. 13I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Romans 12:1-2

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Revelation 1: 1

¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants (doulois) what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant (doulo) John,

Revelation 22:1-9

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and

of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants (douloi pl) will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. ⁶The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants (doulois pl) the things that must soon take place."

⁷"Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant (sundoulos) with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd November