

Application

4. Passages about slaves are often used to apply to the way we, as Christians, should behave as employees. But given what Jim taught us about the realities of slavery in the 1st century, most of us in 21st century America are more like masters than slaves. What do the passages teach us about how we should behave toward people we see around us who are neglected and oppressed?

5. Slavery, or forms of enforced labor that are very much like it, are still a fact for many people in the world. What responsibility do you, as a Christian, have toward people who are still enslaved?

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SURVIVING THE STORM

TOPICS: SLAVERY, OBEDIENCE, DIGNITY, SUBMISSION

Recapturing Freedom

1 Peter 2:11-25

“Remember, if you were a slave when the Lord called you, you are now free in the Lord. And if you were free when the Lord called you, you are now a slave of Christ. God paid a high price for you, so don’t be enslaved by the world.”

1 Corinthians 7:21-22 (NLT)

A special challenge to all “strangers and exiles”

In regard to a hostile environment...

Live as free people but don’t use freedom to cover up evil.

In regard to hostile relationships, show...

1. proper respect to everyone, love [to] the family of believers, fear [to] God, honor [to] the emperor.

Slavery didn’t just deprive people of freedom; it deprived them of personhood.

Where slavery gave humiliation and self-loathing, Christ gave purpose and identity.

Surviving under slavery

(1 Pet. 2:18-20; Eph. 5:6-8; Col. 3:22-25; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 7:21-23)

Submit (did Peter really just say that?)

It's not just what, it's *why*. It's a "strangers & exiles" thing.

Wait ... it get's worse. It's not just to reasonable masters, it's to unreasonable ones.

The key to the command is who they follow, and why they do it.

No free ride for masters

(Eph 6:9; Col 4:1; Philemon)

Christian masters gave up their "rights" in submission to Christ's commands.

In dealing with slavery – Paul couldn't change an institution, but God could change a heart.

Onesimus was to be no longer a slave, but a fellow man and a brother.

Making it personal:

Getting to Know You

1. What would you sing at karaoke night?

Into the Bible

2. The sufferings of Christ are an example for slaves of enduring unjust treatment at the hands of their masters (1 Peter 2:21). Peter goes on to encourage slaves by reminding themselves that they "have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). Share some of the ways that these truths could be an encouragement to Christians living in slavery.
3. Peter doesn't write in his letter about the responsibilities of masters, but Paul does in the letters where he talks about slavery. Read Ephesians 6:9 and Colossians 4:1. Now, study the letter to Philemon (it's only one chapter). Remember, Philemon was part of the Colossian church, so he would have heard that letter read aloud in church. How does Paul, in the personal letter to him, call on him to live out the principle that Paul gives as a requirement for masters?