

Salvation as slavery

Slavery as a metaphor for salvation

‘ebed’

‘doulos’

‘kyrios’

‘slaves of God’

Acts 2:18 even on my male servants [**slaves**] and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

1 Pet 2:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants [**slaves**] of God.

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant [**slaves**] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

James 1:1 James, a servant [**slaves**] of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Acts 4:29, 16:17 Rev 1:1a; 7:3; 19:5; 22:3; Luke 2:29; Titus 1:1

‘slaves of Christ’

Rev 2:20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants [**slaves**] to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant [**slave**] of Christ.

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant [**slave**] of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Rom 1:1; Eph 6:6; Jude 1

‘slaves of one another’

2 Cor 4:5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants **[slaves]** for Jesus' sake.

Gal 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve **[slave for]** one another.

1 Pet 5:5; John 13:2-5

'slavery' theme in 13 parables

e.g.

unmerciful slave in Matt 18:23-35

vineyard workers in Matt 20:1-13

talents in Matt 25:14-30

Our problems with idea of slavery?

How does it relate to other images?

What is a slave?

1. totally _____

2. lost _____

3. belong _____

4. submission _____

1. Union with Christ: Christ as _____

1.1 Christ _____

despotes = master, abs ownership

Matt 10:24-25 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

2 Tim 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

Christou =

Eph 6:6; 1 Cor 7:22

1.2 Christ's _____

Matt 11:28-30 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Jesus's yoke =

cf. Gal 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery; 1 Tim 6:1 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

cf. Lev 26:13 negative but Jer 2:20 positive!

OT: indentured slaves/ 'willing slaves'

Exod 21:5-6 But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6 then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

1.3 _____ by Christ

Exod 6:6; Ps 74:2

'treasured _____'

Exod 19:5-6 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.'"

also Deut 26:18; Mal 3:17

‘unlike the Roman slave market - where slaves were selected based on their positive qualities, like strength, health and physical appearance - God chose his slaves with the full knowledge of their weaknesses and failures.’ (p. 133 John Macarthur *Slave: the hidden truth about your identity in Christ* Nashville Thomas Nelson (2010))

baptism is _____

Rom 14:7-8 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

2 Pet 2:1

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

1 Cor 7:23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants[a] of men.
also 1 Cor 6:19-20; Gal 3:13, 4:5

price = _____

1 Pet 1:18 ‘knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.’

mark of _____

Gal 6:17

Rev 3:12; 14:1 name _____

14:11 name _____

God’s sealing

2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:14

1.4 Christ _____

OT Servant language

Abraham, Moses, David = _____

crucifixion and Tacitus

John 15:18-20 Jesus is _____

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

cf. Matt 10:24-25 slaves not above masters in suffering

Phil 2:7-8 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,[a] being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

John 13:3-5 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Matt 26:39 exclusive devotion to Father's will

Mark 10:44-45 Christ and servanthood

Rom 6:6, 9 Christ took on our slavery to sin at the cross

1 Pet 2:18-23 Jesus and slaves' unjust suffering linked

2. Union with Christ: _____

2.1 Slavery as a _____

to sin John 8:34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

(also Rom 6:16-17; 2 pet 2:19)

to spiritual forces Gal 4:3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.

to law Gal 5:1;

to fear [of judgment] Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

2.2 Salvation as _____

OT exodus

from sin (Rom 6:6) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

from law (Rom 7:6) But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code

from death (Heb 2;14-15) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

from spiritual forces (Gal 4:8-9 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

Galatians = _____

2.3 Salvation as _____

'so completely was Paul emancipated from spiritual bondage that he was not even in bondage to his emancipation' FF Bruce

OT perspective:

Lev 25:55 For it is to me that the people of Israel are servants.[a] They are my servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Ps 116:16 O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

cf. 1 Pet 2:16

Matt 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money

1 Thess 1:9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

A new life! Rom 6:15-23

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient **slaves**, you are **slaves** of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once **slaves** of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been **set free** from sin, have become **slaves** of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once **presented your members as slaves** to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now **present your members as slaves** to righteousness leading to sanctification.

20 For when you were **slaves** of sin, you were **free** in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been **set free** from sin and have become **slaves** of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the **wages of sin** is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 17:7-10

7 “Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? 8 Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? 9 Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

2.4 Slaves to others

Luther: 'A Christian man is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian man is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.'

Don't be slaves of people!

not people-pleasing Gal 1:10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ

not controlled by people 1 Cor 7:23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

Be slaves to another!

Matt 20:25-28 'But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Cor 9:19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

Gal 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

cf. also John 13:16

Real slavery: masters and slaves

slave is free and master is a slave!

1 Cor 7:21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

Col 3:22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 4:1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

A Christian is: _____

3. Impact of slavery on our discipleship

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____