

Slavery

Philemon: 1:15 — For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldst receive him forever; not now as a slave but above a slave, a brother beloved in the Lord.

The book of Philemon is a story of a slave getting freedom from his master. The story of the human race is a story of slavery. The white race enslaving the black race at the time of slavery, the government of America enslaving the citizens of this country with fear tactics, codes, phony promises, America attempting to rule other countries, husbands enslaving wives or vice versa, and on and on goes the list of a manifestation of that flaw or should I say obsession in man that likes to either rule or be ruled over.

Luke 22:26 — One of the most profound scriptures, “He who is greatest among you let him be as the least and those who govern as he who serves. I am among you as one who serves.”

Now to go from that realm of lording it over people to serving is as transforming as changing a worm into a butterfly. We are all born as rulers, selfish, self willed; doing what is right in our own eyes; benefiting self. Our government is a good example of people who call themselves servants but are evil rulers; a product of an evil system or world.

Let us start in the beginning where all the trouble began. When the serpent beguiled Eve, there was a curse put upon mankind through the woman..... “And your husband shall rule over you”. That curse is in our blood and only in Christ is it taken away with the shedding of our own spiritual blood. With God as our Shepherd, or ruler, we are servant of all. Joy, peace and righteousness we get from God so whether we are slave or free, it makes no difference. We all start our spiritual journey as emperor and end up a citizen of the kingdom of God ruled by God Himself. Recommended book to read, *From Emperor to Citizen*, written by the last emperor of China. His struggle to reform and humble himself so he

could live in the new China being formed is much like the reformation of God’s people as we start our spiritual journey back to God, Jesus Christ being the door and the only ruler that sets one free.

Notice that the book, Philemon, is the story of a slave, Onesimus, getting set free from his master. Interesting Paul calls himself a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ. Can you differentiate between being a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ and a slave with a master?

Paul is talking to a lover of Christ, Philemon, who undoubtedly has not the reality of losing all, including his own life to gain Christ. Surely one of the first things one should see is the awfulness of thinking one knows what is good for another ones life, even his own children, husband/wife say nothing of a slave

Paul removes all punishment by offering to pay the money Philemon might demand for the slave running away to get his freedom. Mind you, Philemon was a man who had love and faith toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints. He refreshed the brothers and yet was all words and no substance. He did not do unto others as he wanted others to do unto him. Trust me when I tell you the likes of him will not stand the next move of God, as the waters of Noah rise to do away with all flesh.

Does that remind you of the South and the Civil War?? Assuming God was on their side their presumption found them out. They deceived themselves into thinking God sanctioned slavery. Slavery is a fleshly relationship. Marriage is a union of the flesh. Families are a fleshly relationship. And Jesus let us know that we are living in the time of Noah when all flesh is destroyed; when all evil imagination is annihilated, when the image in our imagination of who we think we are is destroyed by the awesome light of God.

Then notice that Paul gingerly made Philemon make the decision to take him back not as a slave but as an equal. That decision was humbling and a will-bender especially if the slave was black and Philemon was white.

Because the kingdom of God is within us let us look at our slavery to our flesh and its desires, its jealousies, its wants. Our spirit has been enslaved to these many years since the inception of mankind. Only as we seek first the kingdom of God and get free ourselves can we be of help to the human race.

2 Corinthians 10, we cannot use fleshly means to free ourselves or people “For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly (carnal) but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Then it goes on to say, “Do you look on things after outward appearances or are you awake to spiritual warfare?” Let us ask God

to open our spiritual eyes, the eyes of our understanding so we are not just another psychologist healing that which God intends to bring down and destroy.

We have all made slaves of those we hold near and dear to us. The decision all of us will have to make. Will we set them free by departing with them for a season so we can be with them eternally or will we enslave them to ourselves so we can have an earthly relationship? Whatever we enslave ultimately enslaves us.

In the kingdom, right here on earth there is no slave or free man, or Greek or Jew or Southerner or Yankee, or democracy or dictatorship, but a new creation.

The angels from heaven are singing, “Let freedom ring, let freedom ring, our blood we shed to set us free. The cross we bear so we can be.”

Your fellow bondsman,



Marie Kolasinski

THE FREEING OF THE SLAVES

*My name is Philemon — slave owner of old,
People's lives I bought and sold.*

Ah yes, people's lives I bought and sold.

*I told myself they're an animal, one of a kind,
They ain't human, no feelings, no conscience, no mind.*

Ya, they have no feeling, no conscience, no mind.

*Sometimes I let myself see the anguish and pain;
But I was hell bent on profit and gain.*

*One day as I was pondering o're a run-a-way slave;
A voice from heaven came into my heart, my cave.
He told me He came as a slave to mankind.
To free them and to help them, each one to find —
A place where all are one (black, yellow and white);
Where joy and peace replace the striving and fight;
Within our hearts where we strive to be free,
Yet we rule over others where God ought to be.*

*He told me I too was a run-a-way slave,
Slave to my passions, my desires, my lust;
Selfish, self centered, arrogant, unjust.*

*His words like an arrow, they did pierce to the quick,
Shame and sorrow made me feel sick.*

*My greed had made me heartless, void of all feeling —
For others whose eyes looked at me appealing —
For mercy and kindness, compassion and healing.*

Yes, for mercy, kindness, compassion and healing.

*Oh God, forgive me — make me your slave
Fill my heart with those ingredients to save —
Not only myself but others as well —
So we all together, our lives, they will tell —
A story of God's love for his children on earth
The hour has come for all to be birthed.*

*Yes, my name is Philemon, a slave owner of old —
Who now is God's slave, whose life's journey is told.*

Marie Kolasinski

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