

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

GENESIS 16:1

JUNE 22, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

1. Slavery is prominent all through the Bible. Even some of the most celebrated heroes of faith owned slaves. (Gen. 12.16; 16.1)
2. Slavery played a prominent role in our history. Historical events such as the civil war and significant historical figures as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., shaped our country.
3. In the 1700's, 1800's, and even the 1900,s, so called Christians used the Bible to justify slavery and teach that slavery was God approved and endorsed. But what does the Bible say?

I. HOW IS SLAVERY DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE?

- A. Slavery as found in the Bible is very different than the kind of appalling and horrific slavery that existed in our country.
 1. The Greeks had three different words to describe a servant.
 - a) Diakonos: Literally, one who runs. Primarily, a table server. Deacon. (1 Tim. 3.8)
 - b) Huperetes: Hupo – “under”; Eresso – “to row”. Literally, to row under. It describes an officer, a servant of the community. (John 18.3)
 - c) Doulos: This word refers to a slave. One who is owned by another. It is often translated as “bondservant” (1 Tim. 6.1; Gen. 21.9,10).
 2. Slavery in the Bible was never oppressive and race based. The Bible can never be used to justify the kind of slavery that existed in our country.
- B. What kind of slavery do we read about in the Bible? (Col. 3.22)
 1. There were slaves owned by the government.
 - a) Israel often found themselves enslaved by other nations as God-ordained punishment. (Hab. 1.12-15; Jer. 25.11,12; Judges 2.12-14)
 - b) The Jews were slaves owned by the Roman government. (Acts 22.24-29; Phil. 2.6)
 2. There were slaves owned by individuals to whom they were indebted. (Ex. 21.1-6)
 - a) Often the debt was so great that one became a slave for life. (Matt. 18.22-25)
 - b) Metaphorically, we are in debt to sin and redeemed by Christ. (John 8.34-36)
 - c) We are now slaves possessed by God. (Rom. 6.20-22; 1 Cor. 6.19,20)
 3. There were slaves who were more akin to employees of our day.

II. DOES GOD ENDORSE SLAVERY?

- A. The kind of oppressive slavery in our history was never acceptable or allowed by God.
 1. This kind of slavery is categorized as kidnapping. (Ex. 21.16; 1 Tim. 1.10 [ESV])
 2. How did God view the Israel's slavery in Egypt? (Gen. 15.13,14; Ex. 1.11-14; 3.17)
- B. Why are there so many verses which govern the master/slave relationship?
 1. God often shows patience in the sinful nature of man. (Acts 17.30; Jonah 4.2,11)
 - a) God tolerated multiple marriages. (1 Sam. 12.7,8)
 - b) Be careful not to interpret God's patience with God's approval. (Ps. 50.16-21)
 2. Those verses that address slavery refer to the specific kind of slavery that was common in the first century. (Eph. 6.6-9; Col. 3.22-4.1; 1 Pet. 2.18)
- C. How does God feel about slavery?
 1. Darwin promoted racism and slavery as part of evolution and natural selection.
 2. Compare the logical conclusion of Darwinism with God's view of mankind.
 - a) **ACTS 17.26:** “*And He has made from one blood every nation of men*”
 - b) **GALATIANS 3.28:** “*there is neither slave nor free*”
 3. In every relationship and interaction with our fellow man, we are expected to treat one another with love and humility. (1 Cor. 13.4-7)