

I. Slavery in context

- A. All ancient cultures (and some modern ones) practiced slavery
- B. Laws about slaves exist from many contemporary cultures
- C. Ugly facts about slavery in Israel
- D. Compassionate laws for an ugly practice (see Exodus 20:2; 21:20-21, 26-27; Deuteronomy 5:6, 15; 15:12-18)
- E. Why not just *ban* it?
- F. Fundamental equality (see Job 31:13)

II. Laws about male slaves (vv. 1-6)

- A. A "Hebrew" slave
- B. Six years of service
- C. Go out as you came in
- D. Or: perpetual service for love of lord, wife, and children

III. Laws about concubines (vv. 7-11)

- A. A girl cannot be used for a few years and kicked out (see Matthew 19:8)
- B. If a concubine's master does not like her, he must not abuse her further.
- C. If the concubine is for the master's son, he must treat her as a daughter.
- D. If another wife is taken, he must not deprive her.

IV. Remember that you were a slave

- A. Recall what God has done for you (Exodus 13:3, 14; 20:2; Leviticus 25:42; Deuteronomy 5:6, 15; 6:12, 21; 8:14; 13:5, 10; 15:15, 17; 16:12; 24:18, 22)
- B. Walk in his ways
- C. The antidote to disobedience is a deeper recognition of God's grace to you

V. The pierced ear

- A. The choice: pain, bloodshed, and perpetual obedience.
- B. The prize: his bride, his children, his master.
- C. Psalm 40:6 "Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, *but you have given me an open ear*. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required."
- D. Jesus shed his blood and obeyed the voice of God the Father for the sake of love.