

# Exodus 21:1-11 *"The Dowry and Marriage Contracts"*

Sermon Outline for June 29, 2008 by Pastor Dennis Tuuri

Intro - The Way/Law. Law, Grace, Autonomy and Submission, Marriage and Covenant/Law, Life in Exile

- I. Introduction to the Case Laws - 1 *"Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them"*  
See also Gen. 18:19; 26:5; Ex. 24:3  
\* Slavery and Jacob and Laban; Seduction and Dinah; Levirate and Tamar; Clean and Unclean, etc.  
\* God's law for civil magistrates - "ethical instructions in judicial matters." (Cassuto quoted by Jordan)
  
- II. Cases Involving Servitude
  - A. Major Provision - Six Year Limitation for Christian Bondservants  
See also Deut. 15:12-18; Jer. 34:9-16; 1 Cor. 7:20-23  
\*Freedom, servitude and the American Christian
  
  - B. Minor Provisions
    1. If solitary entrance, then solitary exit.
    2. If married entrance, then married exit.
    3. If his master provides a family, then solitary exit.  
\* Redemption possible later  
\* Obligations of Christian parents
  
    4. If perpetual servanthood is desired, ear pierced.  
See also Deut. 15:12-18; Jer. 6:10; Acts 7:51; Psalm 40:6-10; 84:10-12  
\*Love and service  
\*Irresponsibility to Responsibility, of Two Sorts
  
- III. Cases Involving Servitude for Marriage
  - A. Major Provision - No seventh-year release for "betrothed" female servant  
\*Til death do us part
  
  - B. Minor Provisions
    1. If no marriage occurs, then another may provide her dowry, "redeeming" her.  
See also Ex. 22:16,17; Deut. 22:29,29; Gen. 31:14,15; 1 Peter 3:7  
\*The assumption of dowry (not European style, but Biblical).
  
    2. If she marries his son, then she shall be adopted into the family.
    3. If he takes a second wife, then she must still be provided adequate nurture, guarding, and conjugal relationships.  
See also Deut. 24:5
    4. If he fails to provide these three, then she may divorce him without he return of the dowry by the father.  
See also 1 Cor. 7:3-5  
Dowry as Insurance (Divorce, Death, Mature Bridegroom, Bridal Valuation)

Conclusion – The Pressing Need for Marriage Contracts (Pre and Post Nups)