

The Four Faces

SEEING THE FACE OF CHRIST

Class 4

The Face of a Servant

Servant Leadership

Christ led by example. Christ taught the idea of “Servant Leadership”. We are all examples to others. We are all in leadership positions. We must lead by example... by following the example of our Lord.

• Romans 6

- 1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- 2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- 3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
- 4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
- 6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
- 7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.
- 8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:
- 9) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
- 10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
- 11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- 13) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- 14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- 15) What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.
- 16) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

- 17) But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
- 18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
- 19) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.
- 20) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.
- 21) What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.
- 22) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
- 23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Our purpose this week is to see the Face of Christ in the Four Faces of the Cherubim and to learn how to better reflect that Face in our lives...

- We've looked at the Face of a Man...

- And learned to acknowledge our position before God as Mortal Men, and not to "grasp" for equality with God

- We've seen the Face of a King...

- And filled our hearts with the hope of reigning on Earth with our Lord and Savior Jesus...

- Ezekiel 1:10

- 10) As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side

- The Face on the Left Hand Side of the Cherubim is the Face of an Ox...

- When I think of an Ox, I think of my childhood

- I remember visiting the State Fair as a young boy

- I can still see the Vermont State Fair and the Ox Pull Competitions...

- Giant, 2,000 pound, sweaty black beasts...

- With names like "Bishop's Pride" and "Son of Thunder"...

- Straining and Heaving at the Yokes to pull these HUGE steel sleds filled with thousands of pounds of cement blocks

- The sinews and the muscles clearly evident underneath their rippling flesh as they slowly and steadily plodded forward under their heavy loads

- Clearly, these Beasts of Burden are Servants...
- The Bible often uses the Metaphor of the Yoke when referring to a Servant...
- 1st Timothy 6:1-2
 - 1) Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
 - 2) And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.
- The Sabbath Laws prescribed rest for your servants...
- Exodus 23:12
 - 12) Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.
- The Law also prescribed for the provisions of your servants...
- Deuteronomy 25:4
 - 4) Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.
- So, when we look at the Face of the Ox, we are going to be looking at the Face of a Servant...
- A Servant that knows nothing else, but to serve...
- When we look at the Face of Christ we are also seeing the Face of a Servant
- Seeing the Face of A Servant in our Lord and Savior is fairly easy for us...
 - The Gospel record often reflects Jesus as a Servant
 - That is how he appeared on Earth 2,000 years ago
 - It wasn't what the Jews were expecting...
 - But, it was how God wanted them to see him...
- Sometimes you can't imagine how they missed that
- The references seem so clear in hindsight...
- But, they were blinded by their desire to have a King overthrow the Roman rulers that were oppressing them...
- But, the references to Christ as a Servant were readily apparent...

• Isaiah 42:1-3

- 1) Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.
- 2) He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

- Jesus wasn't going to be loud and boisterous

- He wasn't going to clamor, quarrel or be wrangling with the crowd

- You wouldn't even hear his voice in the streets

- No soap box for Jesus...

• Isaiah 42:3

- 3) A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

- The Savior was going to be a gentle man

- Not even one to kill a plant, even if it is already hurt

- This doesn't sound like a Lion

- This doesn't sound like someone who is going to come roaring out of Zion

- Isaiah continues in Chapter 53 to describe the coming Lord...

• Isaiah 53:1-2

- 1) Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
- 2) For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
- 3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- A tender plant...

- Despised and rejected of men...

- This sounds like a Servant

- This sounds like a man of lowly position

- This sounds like someone that serves others...

- Look how Isaiah continues in verse 11...

- Isaiah 53:11-12

- 11) He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12) Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

- The Jews were unable to see the face of God's "righteous servant"

- They completely missed the one that was able to justify them before God, and bear their sins...

- Clearly, Christ came as a Servant, and they were unable to accept that...

- Jesus' teachings were also very much that of a Servant

- In the Gospel of Mark we see the clearest picture of Jesus as a Servant

- Mark clearly saw the Face of A Servant in Christ

- This is fitting as Mark was a Servant himself

- Paul writes to Timothy about Mark...

- 2nd Timothy 4:11

- 11) Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

- Mark understood what it meant to serve others

- Paul found him useful...

- "Able to easily furnish what is needed" ...

- More of Mark's Gospel is dedicated to the Healing Miracles than any of the other Gospels

- Surely, these were the greatest acts of Service in Christ's life, and Mark wanted to make sure they were properly recorded

- Christ introduces the idea of Servant-Leadership in Mark 10...

- Mark 10:35-45

- 35) And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldst do for us whatsoever we shall desire.
- 36) And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

- 37) They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.
- 38) But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?
- 39) And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:
- 40) But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.
- 41) And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.
- 42) But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.
- 43) But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:
- 44) And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.
- 45) For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

- James and John angling for a good position in the Kingdom...

- The Ten get upset with them for doing so...

- Why? Because they didn't properly understand the true nature and position of a Servant?

- No! Because they were asking what everyone wanted! The others were upset because they got up the nerve to ask it first!

- Jesus answers...

NIV 42) *“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.”*

- They all sat quietly, soberly nodding their head

- The way he said it made them a little uneasy

- But, yeah...

- That is what they were looking forward to...

- After all this time following Jesus

- Not having a place to stay

- To say nothing about a Palace or a Throne

- Being ridiculed and persecuted

- Not getting the respect that they felt they deserved
- After all this time to finally get the authority and the power that they expected...
- Then Jesus drops the bombshell on them...

NIV 43) *“Not so with you.”*

“Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...”

- The idea would have been hard for them to accept
- I don't think that we have the same reaction to it as they do...
- For most of us the concept of a Servant is pretty far removed from our everyday life...
 - Somehow, due to it's remoteness, we can accept it on an intellectual level...
 - I don't know if we really understand it, like they understood it
- These were men familiar with Servants
 - They knew what kind of work Servants do
 - They knew what a Servants life was like
- I hope not to offend anyone here...
 - But, maybe we can come to grips with what Jesus is saying better by saying...
 - “Whoever wants to be great among you must be a garbage man.”*
 - “Whoever wants to be great among you must be a janitor.”*
 - “Whoever wants to be great among you must be a maid.”*
- Jesus is calling them to a low position
 - A position with no rank, no importance and no prestige
- A lowly position...
 - A position of service to others...
- *We are also called to be Servants...*
 - *And we really don't have a choice...*
 - **We WILL be the Servant of someone!**

- Paul makes it very clear that we are all servants...
 - Every one of us...
- I would like to take a few minutes to consider what this means to us
 - And hopefully encourage us to realize that it's not a bad thing...
- We read Romans 6 in the beginning of the class...
- Let's take a look at that now...
- Romans 6:16
 - 16) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
- The Bible defines only two actions in life:
 - Obedience
 - Or sin...
- Sin is defined as the disobedience of God's Laws...
 - Therefore anything that is not obedience, is sin...
- SO... what Paul says is true...
 - We all serve one or the other...
 - Obedience or sin...
 - Obedience or Disobedience
 - Obeying God and Serving God...
 - Or Serving our own desires...
- You have no choice...
 - By definition you serve one or the other
- So, we are all Servants already...
- You know, Servant is really too polite of a term...
 - The Greek Word is:
 - **Duolos**: A slave or a servant, involuntary or voluntary; used frequently therefore in a sense of subjection or subserviency

- An interesting definition...
 - *Involuntary or Voluntary...*
- Traditionally, people were made servants in one of two ways...
 - Results of a Battle
 - Payment of a Debt
- We become servants in much the same way...
 - Involuntarily through losing a battle
 - Voluntarily in repayment of a debt
- You can enter the battlefield of the World...
- You can try to live your life outside of the commandments of God...
 - **But, sin will defeat you...**
 - You will eventually be trapped and defeated by sin, and become a slave to it
 - If you try to fight this battle, you will lose, and you will serve sin for the rest of your life
- Or you can voluntarily chose to serve God...
 - Acknowledging that He is our Creator that gave us life...
 - That He gave His son Jesus to die for our sins...
 - And we OWE him an unrepayable debt
 - We can voluntarily chose slavery in payment of this debt
- We make the logical choice...
 - We dedicate our lives in Service to God
 - Because we have been “bought with a price, by the blood of His son”
- Paul continues in Romans 6 to explain our position
- Romans 6:17-18
 - 17) But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
 - Truly, the Truth shall set you free!

- The knowledge of a better way offers us hope and promise
- 18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
 - Once freed from our old master, we have a new master...
 - We become servants of righteousness
- Jesus freed us from the chains of death that had captured us in sin...
 - But, we aren't free to walk away on our own...
 - Having been bought, we know have a new Master
 - And that Master requires Righteousness from us...
- So, either way, you have to serve someone...
 - No matter who you are, or what position you are in...
 - Everybody serves Somebody
 - Who do you want as your Master?
- Another character of slaves is that their life after slavery can be either better or worse than their life before slavery...
 - And that's due entirely to what kind of master they have...
- The two masters that we can serve offer us radically different standards of living...
- Romans 6:19-23
 - 19) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.
 - 20) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.
 - 21) What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.
 - 22) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
 - 23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- What good does it do you to serve Sin?
 - If we become a servant to sin...
 - We have as a reward for our work...

- **Death**

- A miserable life full of trouble and turmoil...
- Constant yearning for a sense of satisfaction and fulfilment that never comes...

- **And finally death...**

- But! If we become a servant of the Living God...
 - We are blessed with righteousness!
 - A constant help and companion in times present...
 - And in the world to come eternal life!
- But, we have to make a conscious decision to chose the right master...
 - We are born into a world where the reigning master is Sin and Death...
 - If you do nothing at all...
 - You will die...
 - Because you are automatically born under the wrong master...
- How do we divorce ourselves from this evil master, and align ourselves with righteousness?

- Paul continues in Romans 7...

- Romans 7:1-4

- 1) Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?
- 2) For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.
- 3) So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.
- 4) Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

- Paul is not trying to teach us about Marriage and Divorce in these verses...
 - He is using Marriage as an analogy to teach us a Spiritual Lesson...

- He is trying to show us how we can change masters!
- In Baptism, the Old Man ...
 - Our Old Master...
 - Our Old Husband...
 - Dies...
 - We don't have to obey him any longer
- We have a New Master now...
- Paul also states another of the principles of slavery here...
 - Once your a slave, your a slave for life!
 - The only way out is through death!
- We have to "put to death the old man" and the evil works of our prior life
- Luke 16:13
 - 13) No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
 - Truly, we cannot serve two masters...
 - The only way that we can align ourselves with the Lord, and receive the reward that is due his faithful and true servants, is if we divorce ourselves from our prior master...
 - Our prior master, the evil lord that brings bad things upon us is...
 - Ourselves!
 - Our own selfish, fleshly, sinful desires!
- This is the example that we see in our Lord and Savior...
 - This is the Face of the Servant that we see in Christ!
- Jesus understood what it meant to be a Servant
 - He understood a Servant's rightful position
 - Not only did he understand it, but he exemplified it
 - He lived it...

- Look at how he describes a Servant's role in Luke 17...

- Luke 17:7-10

7) But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

- Of course you wouldn't do this...

- One of my favorite sayings at work is...

- *Do you sign the back or the front of the paycheck?*

- Your Servant works for your pleasure...

8) And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

- No matter how much has been done already...

- *"The Servants work is never done..."*

9) Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

- Performance Reviews are a modern invention...

- Being concerned with Employee Morale is a recent concept...

- *"The Servants work is thankless..."*

10) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

- This is the life that Jesus wants us to accept

- This is the life that he led...

- Preach All Day Long

- Feed 5,000

- Heal the Multitudes

- Walk on Water

- Try to get a little time alone to pray...

- And they come to you needing your help again!

- *“The Servants work is never done...”*
- And when the time comes...
 - They all desert you and leave you...
- *“The Servants work is thankless...”*
- But, Jesus led by being a Servant...
 - It was a principle that he strongly believed in...
- Jesus establishes this principle very clearly right before his death...
- John 13:1-17
 - 1) Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.
- Sadly, the Apostles had missed Jesus’ clear teaching on this principle...
 - They were coming together for the Feast of the Passover
 - There should have been a Servant there to wash their feet
 - When it was not done for them...
 - How did they react?
 - Did any of them get up to help out? To care for another?
- John 13:3-5
 - 3) Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;
 - 4) He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.
 - 5) After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.
 - How did they feel when Jesus rolled up his sleeves and bent down to pick up the basin?
- John 13:6-10
 - 6) Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?
 - 7) Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.
 - 8) Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

- 9) Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
- 10) Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

- Peter...

- Unclear of the concept

- Overanxious about what he doesn't fully understand...

- He is yet to be converted...

- Luke 13:11-14

- 11) For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.
- 12) So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?
- 13) Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.
- 14) If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

- The connection to us is clear and unambiguous...

- You see in me the Face of a Servant

- You should also reflect that same image...

- He's not talking about literally washing each other's feet...

- Luke 13:15

- 15) For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

- This lesson was a type

- An example

- A sample of what it means to be a Servant

- Luke 13:16

- 16) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

- This is a principle that Jesus had stated before...

- Matthew 10:24 (Don't Turn this Up)

- 24) The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

- We must know our position...

- We must not think too highly of ourselves...

- Luke 13:17

17) If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

- Knowing these things are only half the battle...

- We must do them...

- Sure, many don't even know this...

- But, we who do, must be changed because of what we know

- If others aren't seeing the Face of a Servant in us...

- *Then all that we know won't help us at all*

- What about Peter's Conversion?

- We learn an interesting lesson from his conversion...

- Let's take a quick look at the story of Peter's Conversion in Luke's account...

- Luke 22:24-34

24) And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

25) And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26) But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27) For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

28) Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations

29) And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

30) That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

31) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33) And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34) And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

- Jesus knew that Peter would be converted...

- But, he also knew that Peter wasn't ready yet...

- Peter was not converted until AFTER he denied Christ...

- Jesus had said,

“...thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- Jesus knew that one day Peter would be a strong force in the Ecclesia...
 - But first he had to be sifted as wheat by Satan...
- Once Peter was converted, he was a rock that the ecclesia was built upon
 - But, something had to happen in Peter's life first...
 - He had to decide that he was going to be a Servant for life...
- Let's discuss what it means to choose to be a Servant for Life...
 - A decision that Peter made
 - A decision that Christ made
 - A decision that we have to make

- I want to begin by looking at a few Old Testament Passages regarding Servants:

- Exodus 21:1-6

- 1) Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them.
- 2) If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.
- 3) If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.
- 4) If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.
- 5) And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:
- 6) Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

- Deuteronomy 15:12-17

- 12) And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.
- 13) And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty:
- 14) Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.

- 15) And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.
- 16) And it shall be, if he say unto thee, I will not go away from thee; because he loveth thee and thine house, because he is well with thee;
- 17) Then thou shalt take an awl, and thrust it through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.

- A unique, and interesting little law...

- The Master stands the Servant up in the Doorway
- Takes a sharp Awl and shoves it right through the Servant's Ear Lobe into the Door...
- Ear-Piercing with Garden Tools...
- Obviously, this would leave a large hole for everyone to see...

- This was the provision in the law for Servants to become "Servants for Life"

- The word "Indentured Servant" actually comes from this practice...
 - An archaic definition of the word "Indentured" meant a "small depression or hole in a flat surface." Therefore, a servant with his ear lobe bored out, became known as an "Indentured Servant".

- A wise idea actually, obviously originating with God...

- How would you encourage people to treat their servants kindly, and develop a bond of love between master and servant?
- This provides a built-in incentive for the Master to treat his Servants kindly
 - He wants to have his Servants love him, and desire to serve him for life
 - Kind of a 3,000 year old version of a Retirement Plan and Dental Benefits...

- Now, let's consider an interesting Psalm about Christ...

- Psalm 40:1-6

- 1) I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.
- 2) He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
- 3) And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.
- 4) Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

- 5) Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.
- 6) Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

- Although this Messianic Psalm also applies to David, I would like to look at it's application to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus

- Take a look carefully at verse 6:

“Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.”

- Your first reading of “mine ears hast thou opened” makes you think of “listening”

- When you read this verse from the original Hebrew, you see:

“mine ears hast thou dug”

- Clearly a reference to his ears being bored out with an awl!

- Clearly, Jesus deciding to become an Indentured Servant!

- A Servant for Life

- Jesus had said to his Lord, his Master:

- “I will not go away from thee”

- I want to stay with you...

- I want to be near you...

- Why?

- “...because he loveth (the Master) and (his) house, because he is well with (the Master)”

- He has developed a bond of love with the Master...

- He realizes when he has it good

- He realizes when he is being shown love

- He loves the Master's house...

- Where all good things abide

- He realizes that he prospers in his Master's presence

- And, he chooses to be a Servant for life!

- Psalm 40:7-8

- 7) Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,
- 8) I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

- Once you choose to be a Servant, it becomes a part of your Identity
 - When you become an Indentured Servant your perspective of WHY you are doing what you do changes
- A servant does his Masters will...
 - Because that is what his Master wants
- An Indentured Servant does his Masters will...
 - Because that is what HE wants...
 - He delights to do it.
- A servant follows his masters laws...
 - Because his Master reminds him of them
- An Indentured Servant follows his Master's laws...
 - Because he has adopted them as his own laws...
 - He brings them within his heart.

- Back to Peter's Conversion...

- Luke 22:33

- 33) And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

- Peter followed Jesus, but when he saw a defeated Jesus dragged into the courts by the Roman Guards, he lost his desire to follow him.
 - A converted Peter didn't just follow Jesus...
 - He became like him
 - Peter did become the Rock that the Ecclesia was built on
 - He did become a Servant to many...
 - He became a Servant for Life...

- We have the opportunity to chose to become lifelong servants also
 - We don't HAVE to...
 - I'm sure that many servants didn't become indentured in the past...
 - There are plenty of rewards WITHOUT becoming Indentured
- Deuteronomy 15:13-14
 - 13) And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty:
 - 14) Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.
 - These are simply the material rewards that come from living a "good Christian life"
 - These are simply the rewards of a few years of service
- Notice what is said of the servant who's ear is dug:
 - *"and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever."*
- Those who chose to be a Servant, serve that Master for ever
 - Our Master is eternal, and our service will be eternal
- Do we see ourselves as a Servant?
 - What kind of person is a Servant?
- In short...
 - **"One that looks to the needs and desires of others before themselves"**
- Often this refers to providing for the physical needs of our Brothers and Sisters like the example the Jesus gave us in the Upper Room
- But it also refers to providing for the spiritual needs of those around us...
- Paul gives advice to Timothy...
 - 2nd Timothy 2:24-25
 - 24) And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,
 - NIV 24)** *And the Servant of the Lord must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.*

- I didn't say it was simple advice...

"be kind to everyone..."

25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

- Paul continues to the Corinthians showing how a Servant looks for the salvation of those around him

- 1st Corinthians 9:18-19

18) What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

19) For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

- The Hallmark of any Servant is SERVING OTHERS...

- Looking to the interests of others, and not to our own interests...

- Not ignoring their physical needs...

- But, looking to their spiritual needs also

- We must do whatever we can to help our Brothers and Sisters in this life...

- But, continue to be open to what we can do to help them that will effect the next life...

- And Jesus reminds us that a good Servant is vigilant, and watchful...

- Constantly looking for the return...

- Luke 12:39-44

39) And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

40) Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

41) Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

42) And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

43) Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

44) Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

- Not being lazy...

- Not being concerned with our own affairs...
 - But, diligently working while we wait for the Master's return...
- Is the job hard?
- Is this a lifetime of toil and labor and back-breaking work?
- No...
 - Jesus is serving with us...
 - We are sharing the load with The Servant who tells us:
- Matthew 11:28-30
 - 28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
 - 29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
 - 30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- When we see the Face of the Ox
 - We should be able to see the Face of Christ
 - The Face of a Servant
- But, we should also see the Face of a Servant in ourselves also...
- Because Jesus was a Servant who lead by example...
 - A Servant who called us to follow him:
 - Who told us:
 - *"He who would be great among you must be a Servant."*
 - If we are going to share with Christ the Service to our Master for ever...
 - We must see the Face of the Servant in ourselves...
 - And others must see it in our actions to them...
- Closing Hymn:
- ACCORDING TO THY GRACIOUS WORD