

A Servant Can Be Made Free

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John 8:30-36 As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- I. So many believed on Jesus as He spoke those words about how the Father had sent Him.
 - A. But Jesus did not close the invitation and dismiss the service, or take them to the water to be baptized.
 - 1. Verbal testimony alone is never what Jesus settles for in saving a soul.
 - 2. Men may be so anxious to make a show of success that they will accept things at face value, but Jesus always knows the hearts of men and He will not be silent while they deceive themselves into hell.
 - B. These people were willing to accept the fact that He was the Christ, the Son of God, but only as a matter of mental assent, or agreement.
 - C. This is proven by the way they immediately protested when Jesus put forth the condition that they continue in his Word with the promise that they would be set free from sin.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

- 1. In “deed” – not just in word, but in reality, not in imagination or self-deceit.
 - 2. If ye continue in “my” word, not your own ideas and opinions, or those of someone else.
 - 3. This indicated a change was necessary on their part from what they had been up until now.
 - D. It is clear that they understood sin as the context of the conversation from what Jesus had just said in verses 23-24:

John 8:23-24 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

- E. So they knew exactly what He was talking about when He mentioned being made free.
 - F. They were offended that He would tell them they needed to be set free.
 - 1. “Free from what?” “We are okay like we are!”
 - 2. “We do not see what is wrong with the way we are living.”
 - 3. “Other religious leaders tell us we are OK to live like we do.”
 - G. It is offensive to a sinner to have it brought to his attention that he is a servant to his sin, because he thinks he is his own master.
 - 1. Because his father is the devil, he sees everything upside down and backwards.
 - 2. To him evil is good, and good is evil.

3. Living in sin is freedom and submitting to God is bondage.
 4. In that state he does not know what it is like to desire to do what is right in God's sight, and be able to do it.
 5. All he has ever known is that when he tries to do good he finds himself dragged back to his sin by his cruel taskmaster.
- H. They did not want to be free from their sin; they were "committed" to their sin, and not to Jesus.

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

COMMITMENT, n.

1. The act of committing; a sending to prison; a putting into prison; imprisonment
2. An order for confining in prison.

- I. "Committeth" means to continually commit to something, over and over, repeatedly, habitually, continually.
 1. So Jesus was saying to them that they were committed to their sin and unable, and unwilling to say "no" to themselves, so they were servants.
 2. If they lived in continual, habitual sin there was no salvation for them.
- II. A servant is one who is subject to the command of another.
 - A. The main thing about being a servant is that he cannot say "no" to his master.
 - B. A servant differs from slave, as the servant's subjection to a master is voluntary, the slave's is not. Every slave is a servant, but every servant is not a slave.

Romans 6:16-19 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? 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. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. 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.

- C. A sinner does not realize he is bound by sin, but thinks he is his own master.
 1. This is his delusion and the way the devil pulls the wool over his eyes so that he is blind to his own condition.
 2. Satan uses his pride and his own selfish lusts and desires to keep him thinking he is calling the shots, but all the time the cage is closing in around him.
 3. He cannot say no to his pride or his peers, to his religion, to his lusts, to his willful ignorance, or to his sin.
 - D. Jesus was faithful to speak the truth to these people about the fact that they were in bondage to their own pride and lusts, and since they could not say "no" to themselves they were the servants of sin.
 - E. As long as a person continues in sin, that person is committed to sin, and therefore he is not committed to Jesus, no matter how much he says he believes on Him.
- III. There is only one way out of the bondage of sin, and that is for the Son to set you free.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- A. There is another element required, and that is truth.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life...
 2. But the truth must be applied to the life, which will change the way.
 3. The sinner must come to know the truth about himself and his condition.
- B. The first requirement for following Christ is that we deny ourselves, in other words, say “no” to ourselves.
1. No to our sin, which means we must say not to our lusts and desires, to our pride and self-esteem, and to our right to ourselves.

Luke 9:23-24 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- C. We must change masters, and commit to Jesus Christ.
- D. This is a miracle that happens when we are born of the Spirit.
- E. This miracle of new birth does not happen until we realize that we are servants of sin, and cannot say no to our sin, and cry out to Jesus for deliverance, like the blind man; like the leper; like the thief on the cross, like all who cried out to Him in the Gospels.
- F. This is what Jesus came to do and He will be faithful to his promise, when we believe Him and the truth He says about us, and we renounce our sin and forsake it, and commit our whole being to Him (or truly believe in Him).

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

- G. My life changed when I started saying “yes” to God and “no” to myself.
 1. Up until that moment I had always said “no” to God and “yes” to myself.
 2. The devil had me fooled, just like he does everyone else, into thinking I was calling the shots, but I was his servant, doing and believing whatever he told me; my mind was blinded because of my ignorance and foolishness.
- H. When I stopped defending my castle and left it all to move in with God, I found that I was free indeed.
- I. If we are his disciple INDEED, we will be free INDEED.
- J. Free to do what is right in the sight of God, and free from an evil conscience; nothing will hold us back from that.
- K. Free from guilt and shame and hypocrisy and lies; free to openly be what God has made me to be – conformed to the image of his Son.
- L. Free to think and reason without the constraints of my own selfishness interfering with truth.
- M. Free to love and forgive and enjoy being alive, instead of misery and bitterness and woe and darkness.
- N. Free from the fear of death and the grave; free to live in the lively hope that Jesus is coming for me soon, and that if this body gives out before He comes I have a home prepared for me in heaven by Christ himself.
- O. Free from the hopeless despair of living without God and without hope in the world.

- P. Free from the grip of Satan and his devils who would blind my mind with their lies; I can tell him “NO!” now very boldly and with confidence.
- Q. Free from the bondage of not being able to say “no” to my sin and myself.
 - 1. My mind, my body, my heart are now under his control and servants to God instead of servants to the devil.
- R. Free from that old cruel taskmaster that used to rule me with a rod of iron.
- S. Free from condemnation; free from fear and dread of the future; free from the fear of man.
- T. Free INDEED!; free for real! Free forever!