

Sermon Reflections

Free To Serve • Exodus 21:1-11

Summary: God set you free from slavery to serve your needy brother.

Another illustration of God's mercy to assure provision and protection...

1. Set Free to Serve Willingly (or Sincerely) (vv. 1-6)

- Before teaching on the passage, Pastor Zaman taught us to look for principles in verses like these so we can find a way to apply the truth in our lives. God doesn't change, though we are in a different covenant than Israel was. What do we see about the character of God in these verses? How is that evident in these "rules?" How is that relevant to us?
- What was the nature of the slavery being discussed? What are some ways it was different from slavery in American history? If this slavery was voluntary, why would anyone volunteer for it?
- What were some benefits for the slave and for the master? What does it mean in verse 2; "in the seventh year he shall go out free, for nothing?" In what ways does this relate to the gospel? How does it differ from the gospel?
- These rules regarding slavery are the first in a long list of rules the Lord gives. Read Ex. 20:1-2 and talk about why he would begin with slavery. What is God teaching about mercy? What is the correlation to believers today?
- After six years, why would any servant decide to stay with his master (vv. 5-6)? In what ways is that relevant to us in light of the gospel? See John 6:67-68

2. Set Free To Provide Protection (vv. 7-11)

- Verse 7 says, "When a man sells his daughter as a slave..." Under what circumstances would a man sell his daughter? If her master is not pleased with her (v.8), he may allow her to be redeemed. If the master gives her to his son, (v.9) she must be cared for as a daughter, i.e. a family member with rights. We see the mercy of God to her, to be redeemed or provided for. How has God done those things for us?
- If the Lord Jesus has redeemed you, would you call yourself his slave? If not, why not? If the Lord has provided things for you such as life, mercy, money, goods, knowledge of the truth etc., how are you using what God has given to serve others?
- Are you serving your church family now? How can you excel still more? How can you encourage those around you to be more diligent in service to those in the body?
- Do you feel like you are more in need of help, than able to help others? Reach out to a fellowship leader or his wife, or an elder or other member you trust. Help is available.