

## LOVING PRIORITIES IN LIFE

(Exodus 21:1-6)

### Introduction:

1. Proper life priorities will save us many sorrows.
2. We are to pray and judge upfront our every decision in life.
  - A. I Corinthians 2:15 – ***But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.***
  - B. I Corinthians 11:31 – ***For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.***
  - C. I Corinthians 15:33-34 – ***Be not deceived; evil company corrupts good morals. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.***
  - D. Romans 12:1-2 – ***I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***
  - E. Knowing life's priorities and God's will involves 5 factors lining up:
    - 1) What does the Bible in context say?
    - 2) What do our prayers reveal?
    - 3) What does the Holy Spirit tell us?
    - 4) What do our circumstances dictate to us?
    - 5) What do committed, praying Christians discern concerning God's will for us?
3. In this unusual Scripture text on government, citizenship, and godly relationships in society, we have a perfect picture of living a godly lifestyle under the pressures of society and our roller coaster emotions.
4. The background to these chapters of Exodus is spelling out Israel's judgments, decrees, and covenant responsibilities. It could be well called "The Constitution" of the nation of Israel. Our text has to do with the government's, masters', and slaves' responsibilities to each other. Current slavery rules from our text are slaves were normally released if they were willing on the seventh year which was the

Jewish year of Jubilee. If a slave was married when he became a slave, he could take his wife with him, but if he was married to a slave of his master during his 7 years, he could go, but the wife remained a slave of his master. If he loved his wife, he could choose to stay with his wife and choose to be a slave of his master until death. If this was his choice, he would go before a judge and his master would take him to the doorpost of his house and drive an awl through his ear as a symbol of his decision to remain a faithful slave until his death.

5. This is a beautiful typology of the new birth.

### I. (v. 5) WE FIND THE PICTURE OF A BINDING LOVE.

1. (v. 5a-d) We see love's emotional binding.
  - A. Bind your love to your Master.
    - 1) Exodus 20:3 – ***Thou shall have no other gods before Me.***
    - 2) Matthew 22:37 – ***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul, and with all your mind.***
    - 3) Revelation 2:4 – ***Jesus said, I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love.***
  - B. Bind your love to your family and mate.
    - 1) Malachi 2:14 – ***The Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously; yet is she your companion, and the wife of your covenant.***
    - 2) Ephesians 5:25 – ***Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.***
    - 3) Ephesians 6:4 – ***Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.***
2. (v. 5e) We see love's entrusted binding.
  - A. The slave made a faith decision.
    - 1) He trusted his master to meet his & his family's necessities.
    - 2) He dedicated both his life and his family's lives to serve the master's needs.
    - 3) Psalm 37:25 – ***I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.***

- 4) Philippians 4:19 – ***But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***
  - 5) I Peter 5:7 – ***Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.***
- B. The slave made a godly decision.
- 1) Psalm 116:18 – ***I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people.***
  - 2) Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 – ***When you vow a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay that which you have vowed. It is better that you should not vow than that you vow and not pay.***

[We've looked at a binding love now we see. . .]

## II. (vv. 5-6) WE FIND THE PICTURE OF A BRANDING LOVE.

1. (vv. 5-6) The slave has made his life's commitment to his master.
  - A. John 15:16 – ***You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you.***
  - B. Luke 9:62 – ***And Jesus said unto him, no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.***
  - C. Ruth 1:16-17 – ***And Ruth said, do not urge me not to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.***
2. (v. 6a-c) The master certifies the covenant.
3. (v. 6d-e) The master marks the slave with his seal.

### Conclusion:

In this passage, we have a beautiful picture of what it means to be committed as a bond slave to our Master.