

*Jubilee Meditations: Responsibility, Slavery & Forgiveness
(From Law to Gospel)*

1 Corinthians 7:22–23 (Leviticus 25)

April 13, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon: Are you rich or poor?

1. Maya in Syria (Barnabas Aid)
2. Eternal Poverty (Cf. James 1:17 – “good gifts”)

Revelation 3:17

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

B. The Sabbath & Jubilee Years

1. **Review:** the Rich Belong to God

(Stewards)

- a. God was teaching His people to rely on Him (Leviticus 25:18–22)
- b. God was teaching His people to be like Him

2. **Today:** The Poor also Belong to God

(Protections & Responsibilities)

Every society has had difficulty in knowing how to deal with poverty and debt; God's provision was that those in debt serve the one they owed until it was paid in full. However, the Jubilee Year kept it from being hopeless.¹

- a. Hired workers not permanent slaves
- b. Right of redemption (Self/Relatives)
- c. The year of Jubilee (50th year)

C. A Comment about Slavery

Exodus 21:16

“Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.

II. The Poor Belong to God...

¹ Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (462). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

A. The Poor Should Care about their Debts

2 Thessalonians 3:6–15 (Cf. Ephesians 4:28 – “thief”)

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from *any brother who is walking in idleness*... ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ... ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

B. Families & Church Families **Should** Help One Another (Godliness; Means of Grace)

1. No interest loans (Cf. Lv. 25: 35–37; Dt. 15:7–11)
2. Kinsman redeemer (Law to Gospel)

1 Timothy 5: 3–4, 8

³ Honor *widows who are truly widows*. ⁴ **But if a widow has children or grandchildren**, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ...

⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

C. Since the Poor Work for the LORD they are Free from Earthly Masters

1 Corinthians 7:21–24

²¹ Were you a bondservant when called? *Do not be concerned about it.* (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a **freedman of the Lord**. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. ²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. ²⁴ So, brothers, in *whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.*

1. What it doesn't mean (Building on Point A)
2. What it does mean

Ephesians 6:5–8

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as ***bondservants of Christ***, *doing the will of God from the heart*, ⁷ rendering service with a good will *as to the Lord* and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, *whether he is a bondservant or is free*.

1 Peter 2:18–19, 21ff

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, ***not only to the good and gentle*** but ***also to the unjust***. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ... ²¹ For to this you have been called, because *Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example*, so that you might follow in his steps. ...

D. Our Jubilee Year Has Been Secured!

Leviticus 25:9b–10

On the Day of Atonement you shall ***sound the trumpet*** throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.

III. Review: Work Hard with Joyful Security

Key Idea

Work hard in all things as a joyful service to Jesus knowing that your future is secure. (Because you are rich!)

- A. Changing our current condition is not our chief motivation for hard work

B. Motivations for Endurance

1. Loving service offered to Jesus is our chief motivation
2. ...and the second motivation is like the first, loving concern for those we owe
3. Are you rich?
 - a. Christians have a secure inheritance

1 Peter 1:3–9 (Cf. Revelation 3:17 - Laodicea)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ **to an inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, ***kept in heaven for you***, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by ***various trials***, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—***may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ***.

b. Do you understand your need?

Carrie Beth Smith Thank you to everyone involved with T4G. I was invited to come by a couple at church. I chuckled Tuesday night when they talked about potential non-Christians in the audience. I wasn't laughing on Wednesday as I finally understood my need for the grace of God. ***I thought I'd been a Christian - for 30 years***. God moved and I finally understood my need for a Savior. I was dead and now alive. I was blind but now I see. And I'm ready to tell the world about the overwhelming grace, mercy and love of God our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ! May God bless you for your faithfulness to sharing the Truth!!

(Bold mine)