

Sermon-Based Questions
January 13, 2019
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Paradox
Slavery is Freedom
Matthew 11:28-30

Introduction (choose 1):

1. Why do you think so many of us feel “weary and burdened” by life?
2. Our paradox for this week is, “If you want to be truly free, you have to enter into slavery.” What thoughts and emotions do you have when you hear this paradox?

Understanding (choose 4-6):

3. *Read Matthew 11:28-30.* Why do you think we often focus on the “rest for our souls” and not the “yoke”?
4. *Read John 8:34 and Romans 7:14.* The Bible teaches us that we are slaves to sin. What exactly does this mean?
5. *Romans 7:21-24.*
 - Take a second to think about the sin you struggle with the most. Now, thinking back to the verses you just read, are you able to relate to what Paul is saying?
 - How do you feel when you find yourself struggling with the same sin time and time again?
6. Pastor Dave talked about how we are freed from one type of slavery in sin, so we can enter into a different kind of slavery in Jesus.
 - What do these two different types of slavery look like?
 - How are they different from one another?
7. What are characteristics of people who seek the approval of their audience and those who seek the approval of Jesus? Which type of approval do you most often seek?
8. How do you feel and react when your plans or your agenda change? How does your perspective change when you allow Jesus to set the agenda for your life?
9. *Read Colossians 1:29.* In what ways do you think Paul’s struggle looks differently when he is using the energy of Jesus Christ?

Application:

10. Is God asking you to do something that seems out of your ability? What is it and what has been holding you back? Take time to pray for courage to do what God is asking of you.

11. *Read Psalm 119:32.*

- Think of and share an example of someone you know who is obeying and pursuing God with passion.
- Take time to pray that we can follow God and have our hearts be set free in doing so.

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Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gently and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

-Matthew 11:28-30

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord.

-Romans 7:21-25

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and you have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

-Romans 6:22