

# The Marks of a Servant

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that every man was free. Thousands of slaves gained that freedom at the end of the Civil War. With this freedom came a choice as to how they would live: as servants, or as free men and women.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus Christ bought us out of the slave market of sin and set us free. As free people, we now have the choice as to how we will live. In Galatians 5:13, Paul declared, *“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”*

What does it mean to be a servant? The Bible paints a portrait of certain qualities that should characterize our lives as we give ourselves to others. These are the marks of a true servant.

## **SERVANTS HAVE A LOVE FOR THE MASTER**

Exodus 21:2-6.

<sup>2</sup> “If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. <sup>3</sup> If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. <sup>4</sup> If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free.

<sup>5</sup> “But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ <sup>6</sup> then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life. (NIV)

## **SERVANTS FIND PLEASURE IN SERVING**

Psalms 40:6-8.

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. <sup>8</sup> I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.” (NASB95)

## **SERVANTS ARE FAITHFUL & TRUSTWORTHY**

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup> In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. (NASB95)

## **SERVANTS ARE HUMBLE**

Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

<sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)