

"The man with the ear-rings".

(1). "The Slave who Wouldn't".

Introd:- (1). One of 1st laws of homiletics and hermeneutic is that a text must not be taken out of its context, or it becomes a pretext. Yet, having determined its primary, literal meaning..we proceed to draw from such texts a deeper spir. meaning relevant to our day and needs. So let me do just this with text about TOPIC..Exod.21:5.

(2). Literal meaning plain enough. Remember that the master-slave relationship here denoted was nothing like horrible forms of inhuman slavery in more recent centuries c/f Exod.21:1-2. Free in 7th year. But sometimes this happened.."I love my master..I will not go out free". Then vs.6. Ear bored..usually ring put in..master's name.. **FOREVER HIS SERVANT!** Bound by affection..love for master. (True meaning of ear-rings..to denote what serve..where ear is given in obedience..Think of that..c/f Beel rings). Here then is the slave who wouldn't, would not go out free!

I. Now let me at once begin the 1964 application of this.

(a). As soon as I read these words..I confess myself as the grateful bondman, and the wonderful Lord Jesus my Master! Let me **PLAINLY SAY**.."I love my master..." **WHAT DO YOU SAY?** Have you come to this place..love to Lord Jesus? Serious, bec. listen to the alternative...I Cor. 16:22. **X'n does.**

(b). And no wonder. What a Master He is! How poverty-stricken by comparison..Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed..Nobody sings "O how I love Mohammed..Buddha". No love involved with those dead men. X'nty entirely unique both in its teachings and its relationships. Sing "O how I love Jesus! What competitor could there be to His matchless manhood, incomparable character, His solitary sinlessness and moral transcendence? Someone has said: "If Buddha, Socrates, Plato, Shakespears, Milton walked into our presence, we would take off our hats to them. But if Jesus walked in we would instinctively fall down and worship Him".

(c). Jesus is totally different..He is the **GOD-MAN**..Deity incarnate..birth set angels singing..wise men worshipping and shepherds wondering..even stars sent diamond-fingered repres. to point to His strange cradle..In infancy He startled a king..In boyhood he puzzled the learned..In manhood He ruled forces of nature..taught with authority. Never confessed sin..or showed consciousness of it..Healed without medicine or money..Never wrote book..song..founded school..prac. medicine..marshalled army..Yet more...books, songs, students, broken lives healed..volunteers sacrifice! Herod could not kill him in childhood..Satan seduce Him in manhood. Death cd. not destroy..nor grave hold Him.

(a)

Past cannot confine Him..Only Being in Universe at present with an immortal body..Risen reigning returning LORD..He is the One who can save to uttermost all who come to God by Him. THIS IS MY MASTER. And so,..I Pet. 2:7. "I love my Master....

II. Take time weigh this with me. How fully do I love Him?

(a). In very real sense every X'n loves the Saviour..deeply..fully. If a man doesn't..not X'n..not born again..Not saved Yet I believe our love for Him grows..into fuller capacity..  
First:- We love Him gratefully. Mark of a true X'n..I John 4:19. That begins at conversion..but then GROWS AS WE KNOW HIM MORE FULLY..And gratitude always brings its response..c/f

C.T.Studd.."If JC be God, and died on Calvary for me, then no sacrifice I make for Him can ever be too great". David Livingstone.."I will place no value on anything I may have or possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ"..Real X'n experience If you haven't got THIS..you are not saved. God rouse us!

(b). Second:- We love Him reciprocally. There grows up a mutual fellowship, described in Rev. 3:20. There is the growth of a love-bond..manifested every day. He becomes our Companion, and our daily Helper..Our self-consciousness filled with X-consciousness

Third:- We love Him adoringly. These are deeper depths. We learn to love Him for what He is Himself..And learn what true WORSHIP means. Old Puritan preacher:- "When I get to heaven I shall spend the first 1,000 yrs. looking at Jesus; and then I may have a look around".

(c). Fourth:- We love Him absorbingly. Then our whole life is lost in Him. No longer does a fragment of self rule. We THEN understand what this means.."Ye are not your own; ye are bought with a price". He is the complete Master..I am His bond-slave.. These are the true depths of love for X...Like Ezek.47:3-5. Waters to swim in! Covet such a love! It will mean saying utter "No" to flesh, self..A conquering of prayerlessness.. Getting ev' thing right..Living to honour God..and giving Him priority of time in secret.

Conclus:- 1. Inevitable result.."I WILL NOT GO OUT FREE". What contemptible, miserable concept of X'n life.."Saved..now free to run with devil's crowd". SUCH A ONE KNOWS NOTHING OF SALV. FOR NO LOVE FOR THE MASTER. "I will NOT go out free"..is cry of one who knows and loves His Lord. Question all settled  
2. Let me ask as close..DO YOU LOVE THE LORD JESUS? Ever thanked Him for dying for you on Calvary's Cross...Gospel. Time to say..plainly."I love my Master"..c/f Rom. 10:9-10.

Roxford Bap Ch - Apr 5/64  
KEROOWA - PEOPLES MISSION CAMP - AUG 16/63 (last)  
MILDEN, SK - APR 22/62  
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