



Branded

Roxborough Bible Chapel

January 4, 2015



Exodus 21:1-6

- 1 "Now these *are* the judgments which you shall set before them:
- 2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.
- 3 If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he *comes in* married, then his wife shall go out with him.
- 4 If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.
- 5 But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'
- 6 then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Exodus 21:1-6 - Notes

- **Servant** - A servant could choose to remain a slave by having his ear bored to the doorpost
 - Voluntary - The servant used to serve in the state of bondage (had to obey). Now he would serve his master out of love.
 - The servant would identify with his master (lord)
 - This would be a permanent mark
- **Lord Jesus** – This is a beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ (the perfect servant)
 - The Lord Jesus' love for us (and His Father) was so great that He would not go free (but rather went to the cross of Calvary)
- **Us** - Likewise, we should be His willing bondslaves
 - My Master, lead me to the door;
Pierce this now-willing ear once more.
Thy bonds are freedom; let me stay
With Thee to toil, endure, obey.
 - Bishop Moule

Definitions

- Exodus 21
 - Branded
 - Earmarked
 - Marked
 - Permanent marking
- Definition of Servant - a person who is devoted to or guided by someone or something
- Definition of Earmark
 - 1a. to mark (livestock) with an earmark
 - 1b. to mark in a distinguishing manner
 - 2. to designate (as funds) for a specific use or owner
- Definition of Brand
 - (among other definitions ie. brand names) a mark that is burned into the skin of an animal (such as a cow) to show who owns the animal
 - In layman's term's it mean's "YOU'RE MARKED."

Branding (excerpts from Wikipedia)

- The act of marking livestock with fire-heated marks to identify ownership has origins in ancient times, with use dating back to the ancient Egyptians. Among the ancient Romans, the symbols used for brands were sometimes chosen as part of a magic spell aimed at protecting animals from harm.
- In English lexicon, the word "brand" originally meant anything hot or burning, such as a "firebrand", a burning stick. By the European Middle Ages, it commonly identified the process of burning a mark into stock animals with thick hides, such as cattle, so as to identify ownership under animus revertendi. The practice became particularly widespread in nations with large cattle grazing regions, such as Spain.
- These European customs were imported to the Americas and were further refined. In the American West, a "branding iron" consisted of an iron rod with a simple symbol or mark, which cowboys heated in a fire. After the branding iron turned red hot, the cowboy pressed the branding iron against the hide of the cow. The unique brand meant that cattle owned by multiple ranches could then graze freely together on the open range. Brands became so numerous that it became necessary to record them in books that the ranchers could carry in their pockets.

Branding

- Branding in the Physical Sense
 - Identifies ownership
 - Applied with heat (and pain)
 - Unique symbols would distinguish the cattle from other “brands”.
 - Permanent scar
- Branding in the Spiritual Sense
 - Identifies ownership with the Lord Jesus
 - In order to be a true servant, we sometimes have to go through trials which may “hurt” us but actually helps us become more committed, devoted servant-like Christians committed to obedience to the Lord.
 - We should be marked with a distinguishing type of selfless love (the sign of a Christian).
 - Lifelong commitment

Galatians 6:14-17

- ¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.
- Paul, was once a slave of the law but now delivered from that bondage by the Lord Jesus as a willing slave.
- Just as slaves were branded with the mark of their master, so Paul had the ownership **marks of the Lord Jesus** on his **body** (the scars which he received at the hands of his persecutors).
- Now he says: “Don't let anyone try to reclaim me. Don't talk to me about the brand-mark of circumcision, indicating bondage to the law. I wear the brand of my new Master, Jesus Christ.”

John 20:25, Philippians 2:7-8

- **John 20:25** The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."
- **Philippians 2:7-8** ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Is it Better to Be a Servant with Restrictions or Free?

Examples (which admittedly have some exceptions)

- **Employer vs. Employee**
 - Owners of companies are free to do as they please and yet have all the headaches of making the right decisions (responsibilities).
 - Employees do not have to have the big picture in mind. All they have to do is their specific function without need or concern about other things. – There is a great amount of freedom in being an employee (instead of an employer).
- **Touring Free vs. Guided Tour**
 - Taking a guided tour (forced schedule) can be better than trying to figure out what to do, when, and where if you are on your own.
- **Environment – Water vs. Air**
 - If we limit our environment to air, we will live healthier and longer lives than someone who may want to spend their entire life in water (without the restricting scuba diving equipment).

Can humans be truly “free”?

- We are all slaves to someone – Who is your master?
 - the Devil
 - The Lord Jesus
- If we do what we think is what we want to do (freedom), then we typically become slaves to that activity (slavery to sin, ie. addiction to drugs, alcohol, sex, etc.)
- John 8:31-36
 - ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Lord Jesus = Perfect Servant

- Obedient to the Father in all respects
 - The “bad” part of being a servant
 - Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."
 - He was obedient even to the death of the cross (Philippians 2)
 - The “good” part of being a servant (joy of obedience)
 - Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- His obedience and submission resulted in His “branding”
 - Bears the marks of a servant (print of the nails and side as well as perhaps others from the scourging and crown of thorns, etc.)
 - Isaiah 52:14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;
 - Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
 - II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Lord Jesus = Perfect Servant

- Branded forever because of His love for us



Challenges

- Are you a servant of the Lord Jesus?
 - His yoke is easy and His burden is light
 - Are you free to do His will?
 - Have you considered yourself dead to sin? (Servants cannot/should not do anything the Master does not want them to do.)
- Do you have ownership marks of the Lord Jesus?
 - Are you branded? Are you “marked”?
 - Have you been “tried” by fire to be branded?
 - As you walk in the world today, do people recognize that you have been branded with the Lord Jesus?
 - Do people know that you belong to the Lord Jesus?
- Do you trust the Lord Jesus to rule your life?
- Are you a faithful servant?
 - Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'
- Have you been baptized (identified with the Lord Jesus)?