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*been worth twice as much as that of a hired hand. And the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.*

### **Accountability for how we treat people.**

— *Job 31:13 If I have denied justice to my menservants and maidservants when they had a grievance against me,<sup>14</sup> what will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to account?*

*<sup>15</sup> Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?*

### **A far worse kind of slavery...**

*John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

— *John 8:33 They answered him, We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"*

*John 8:34 Jesus replied, I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*

*<sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.*

*<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

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## **Did God Approve Slavery?**

Is God a Moral Monster? - part 7

May 27, 2018

### **Different kinds of slavery**

— *Leviticus 25:47 "If an alien or a temporary resident among you becomes rich and one of your countrymen becomes poor and **sells himself** to the alien living among you or to a member of the alien's clan,<sup>48</sup> **he retains the right of redemption after he has sold himself.** One of his relatives may redeem him:*

The essence of indentured servanthood is that it is:

- a. Voluntarily entered into,
- b. A means of paying off a debt.
- c. Only for a prescribed length of time.

### **A means to help the poor**

— *Leviticus 25:39 "If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave.<sup>40</sup> He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until*

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*the Year of Jubilee.*

*<sup>41</sup> Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers. <sup>42</sup> Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. <sup>43</sup> Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.*

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### **The big picture goal: reduction of poverty; no need for servanthood**

*Deuteronomy 15:1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.*

*<sup>2</sup> This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite or brother, because the LORD's time for canceling debts has been proclaimed. <sup>3</sup> You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you.*

*Deuteronomy 15:7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. <sup>8</sup> Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs.*

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*<sup>9</sup> Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near, so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin.*

■ *Deuteronomy 15:10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.*

*<sup>11</sup> There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.*

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### **Treating a servant**

*Deuteronomy 15:12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free. <sup>13</sup> And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed. <sup>14</sup> Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you.*

*Deuteronomy 15:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.*

■ *Deut. 15:16 But if your servant says to you, I do not want to leave you, because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, <sup>17</sup> then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life.*

*Deuteronomy 15:18 Do not consider it a hardship to set your servant free, because his service to you these six years has*

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