

# EXODUS

## WORDS TRIGGER:

- Vivid mental pictures
- Emotional reactions
- Physical reactions

“Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. <sup>2</sup> When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. <sup>3</sup> If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. <sup>4</sup> If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone. <sup>5</sup> But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ <sup>6</sup> then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

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<sup>7</sup> “When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do. <sup>8</sup> If she does not please her master, who has designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has broken faith with her. <sup>9</sup> If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her as with a daughter. <sup>10</sup> If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights.

“Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. <sup>2</sup> When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing.

- Liberty, freedom, options for both in a reasonable time frame
- Go out for free, no residual debt, end of contract, pleasant parting

<sup>3</sup> If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him.

- Practical rules for clarity

<sup>4</sup> If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone. <sup>5</sup> But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' <sup>6</sup> then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

- Face value appears cold, different definition of family due to God still instructing, polygamy
- Allowance for family staying together, both employer and employee liable

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- Redeemed, no right to sell to foreigners
- Same rights as a daughter
- New wives don't diminish rights

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*Text appears to be meant to develop a character of mercy and justice, where the servant or slave has clearly defined rights, not solely as a set of rules.*

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## 4 POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

- Case Law
- Why start case law discussion with this particular subject? (Always a reason)
- Intent
- Principles and preferences

## CASE LAW

- Abstracts - need clarification
- Examples - nail the points home
  - Not exhaustive, but guidelines

# WHY IS THE FIRST EXAMPLE, AFTER THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, ABOUT SLAVERY?

- Israel should have been perfectly equipped in social justice because of their recent past
- Point A should have been a given, so it appears this is a reminder that “there is none righteous, no not one” and our tendency apart from God is evil not justice

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# EXAMPLE = SPECIMEN, SAMPLE, INSTANCE

*used as a model or illustration of a generality*

- Examples clarify abstracts, faces to names, the how to's that give action to words or ideas
  - Soft...like baby skin
  - Bald...as a cue ball
  - Fast...as lightning

## PSALM 119:97-105

<sup>95</sup> The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,  
but I consider your **testimonies**.

<sup>96</sup> I have seen a limit to all perfection,  
but your **commandment** is exceedingly broad.

<sup>97</sup> Oh how I love your **law!**

It is my **meditation** all the day.

<sup>98</sup> Your **commandment** makes me **wiser** than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more **understanding** than all my teachers,  
for your **testimonies** are my **meditation**.

<sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your **precepts**.

<sup>101</sup> I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep **your word**.

<sup>102</sup> I do not turn aside from **your rules**,  
for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> **How sweet** are **your words** to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> Through your **precepts** I get **understanding**;  
**therefore** I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup> Your **word** is a **lamp** to my feet  
and a **light to my path**.

- Not an end all in themselves, but a road map leading to the end, which are the first and second commandments spoken of by Christ.
- These are probably meant not only as specifics (commandments, rules, law) but more importantly to give training for character development (understanding, wiser, light, lamp, therefore, meditation, sweet).

*It is one thing to obey rules, it is another to have understanding derived from mediation so my life is driven and ordered by; the intent, the Holy Spirit, circumstances.*

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Let's remember the point of today's passage, to generate understanding of the 10 commandments in a practical way. Not an end all of rules.

*MACC teaches principles in a truth/ not truth aspect but gives freedom in the outplaying of neighboring i.e. preferences.*

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*Christ's confrontations with religious leaders often centered on either them misunderstanding God's law or appropriating a man-made version of it. Rigid vs intent of heart*

**MATTHEW 12:9-12:** He went on from there and entered their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

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**MATTHEW 5:27-28:** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

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**MATTHEW 23:23-25:** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

# PRINCIPLE vs PREFERENCE

- What do I mean?
- I beat the drum hard on this. As the theology of it is not only crucial for individuals but, in my mind, is a critical cornerstone for the “unity in the midst of diversity” chant that we so rightly declare.
- This concept **gives** opportunity for unity and diversity

*Created and empowered as individuals by God Himself, that's the joy of community. We'll walk together down one narrow path of righteousness. We can still hold our principles secure, as the Scriptures dictate we should. We will also hold loosely these preferences so in community we can sharpen each other in dialog and life. We will adapt, change, grow into the image of Christ-the author and perfecter of our faith. Heb 12:2*

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- God gave the 10 commandments; they are abstract by nature so He gave examples to help clarify.
- Since day one God is interested in the heart. Compare Abel and Cain and their sacrifices. The Pharisee and common man, “I thank thee I am not like.... God forgive me , a sinner. Gen 4, Luke 18:11-13
- Through His death, resurrection, the gift of the Holy Spirit and a heart transplant (Ezekiel 36:26) we can grasp Gods will in the areas of principles. But as importantly, maybe more so, in the working out of it, the rubber meeting the road. With a heart made pure by God Himself, we have the ability and power to act righteous and in a manner that’s in harmony with who He created us to be, individuals.

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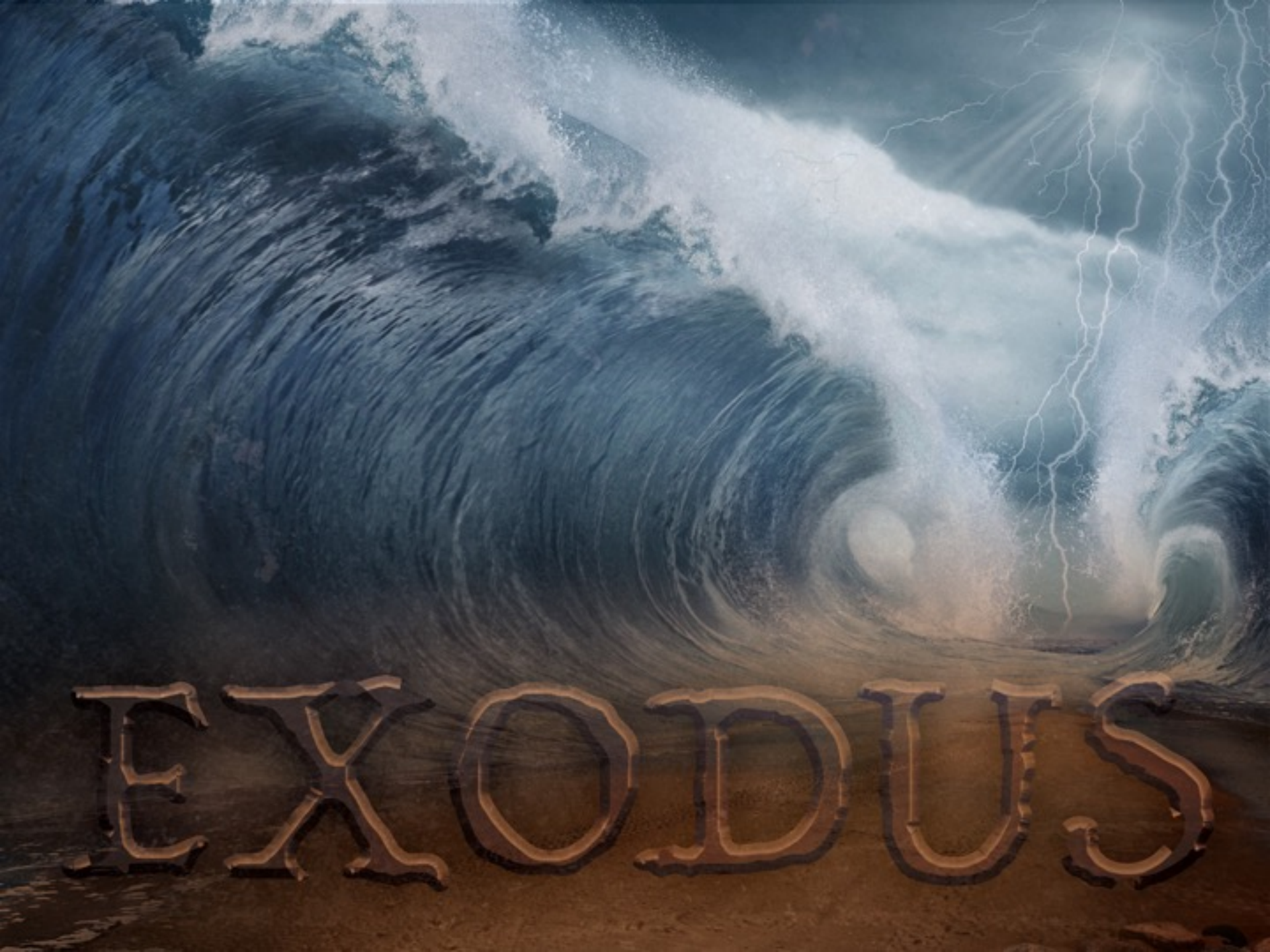
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# APPLICATION

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