

The Ear Nailed to the Doorpost

Exodus 21:5 And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:

Exodus 21:6 Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

God commanded masters to grant freedom to their slaves or bondservants after six years. However, if a slave loved his or her master and refused freedom, God prescribed a significant ceremony which evoked memories of a powerful event going back to that fateful night when the Hebrews first tasted freedom after four hundred years of slavery in Egypt. “And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it” (Exodus 12:7).

Let us first meditate on the significance of each Hebrew door in the land of Goshen. Until that night, when the blood was applied on the doorposts, the door was just another door. They went out and re-entered as slaves in the land of Egypt. Now, for the first time in four hundred years, each Hebrew knew that once they exited through the bloodstained doorposts, their status would change forever – they would be free children of Jehovah. In addition, no one re-entered into those houses because there was no blood on the doorposts on the outside – re-entrance would make them slaves to Egypt again. It was a one-way exit with no incentives to re-enter. This is why God was so angry with those Hebrews and mixed multitudes who complained and desired to return to Egypt: there was no blood on the outside of the doorposts. “But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way” (Deuteronomy 17:16).

Now, once we understand the above, we can appreciate the profound message in the ceremony or ritual of the ear nailed to the doorpost in Exodus 21: 5&6. The blood represents the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In addition, Jesus is the door himself. “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9). The slave is the Christian who recognizes that unlike the door in Egypt, Jesus is the door with blood *on the inside and outside* – the life and blood of God is in his body. This means, as the Lord says, the slave can go in and out, back and forth, and still be free in Christ. This explains why this slave does not want to leave his master because he understands that only Jesus Christ has complete and eternal freedom. “If the Son therefore shall make you free,

ye shall be free indeed” (john 8:36). We are the slaves who refuse a false freedom, saints of God. We have served Jesus for some years and we love him so much that we refuse the offer of a pseudo-freedom outside of our sweet Lord Jesus. We say no to such freedom! Take my ear and nail it to the doorpost with the blood of my Jesus! We reject the world’s freedom. Young people, please take heed! The so-called freedom of the world often leads to bondage.

2Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Pharaoh and the Egyptians never gave up their claim to their former slaves. They were so determined to enslave the Hebrews once again that they became suicidal. Every Christian must understand that Pharaoh and the Egyptians have never given up their claim on us – they are willing to do anything to capture us and bring us back to Egypt again. Pharaoh is in alcohol, nicotine, drugs, illicit sex and countless other so-called “freedoms” and “pleasures” around us today. I plead with you to rush to the doorpost that is Jesus, renounce all so-called freedoms, and demand to be stuck with Jesus, pierced through with an aul to the doorpost. The pain you will experience is nothing compared to the pain that Jesus experienced for us when he was pierced for our sins.

Psalm 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Psalm 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

Psalm 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Psalm 22:17 I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

Let us consider the ears for a moment. The door to the salvation of the soul is the ear. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). The ear is the first contact point between Jesus’ witnesses and the unsaved. It is impossible to save a soul without first commanding the attention of the ear. This is why Moses shouted in the desert, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD” (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Lord Jesus also emphasized the importance of the ears when he said, “Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have” (Luke 8:18). Circumcision and the hole in the ear were the only two marks on the body that God permitted. All else were forbidden.

Leviticus 19:28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

Circumcision was mandatory; a person must remove the sinful and doomed body of Adam, but the aul in the ear was voluntary – God will never force anyone to be his servant. Look around you today! I have never witnessed such an explosion of cuttings, markings and piercings in people’s bodies. We must ask why most of these piercings portray evil and morbid themes such as death skulls, dragons, Celtic/Druid symbols, snakes and tribal symbols, to name a few. Getting a tattoo is a permanent decision, and so is circumcision and piercing the ear for Jesus, symbolically speaking. We have a choice to make today: either make a permanent decision to serve the gods of evil or the God of truth and light, Jesus Christ. Which mark will we take? Remember that the antichrist will force the world to make such a decision visibly.

Revelation 13:16 *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

Revelation 13:17 *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

This means we must not neglect God’s voluntary offer of submission to him today. Jesus voluntarily took upon his body the markings of nail prints in his hands, feet, sides and head for us. “Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:27). Two thousand years later, the Lord Jesus still proudly displays his nail prints of love for you and me. Why will we hesitate to receive the invisible marks of the Lord through baptism in Jesus name and the piercing of our ear lobe? Come; let us lend our ears to Peter again:

Act 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Act 2:39 *For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*