

Discovery Group

Redeemed Servants of the King

Receive God's Word: John 13:1-17

- * Read the passage aloud one person retell it in their own words.
 - What do we learn from the passage about God?

 - What do we learn about ourselves as people?

- * Read the article on the other side.
 - What do we learn about our identity as servants?

Respond in Obedience

- * What is Jesus calling you to do in obedience to Him this week?

- * Who can you share this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

- * Abide:

Matthew 28:18-20;	John 14:15-31
Romans 6:1-23	James 1:22-25
1 John 2:1-6	Romans 6

Redeemed Servants of the King

Just as we are baptized into the Father, giving us the identity of sons and daughters, so we are baptized into the Son, who is King, giving us the identity of redeemed servants. It seems incongruent to be both a son and a servant, but the early followers of Jesus reveled in both identities. In fact, Jesus Himself is referred to as a servant as well as the Son of God (Acts 3:13, 4:27, 4:30). The apostles loved referring to themselves as servants, and Jesus still called them servants even after elevating them to friendship (John 15:15, 20 - also Rom 1:1, 1 Cor 3:5, Gal 1:10, Phil 1:1, Titus 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1, Jude 1:1, Rev 1:1).

We are servants. Paul says to us, “you are not your own; you were bought at a price.” (1 Cor 6:19-20). The primary response required of us as servants is obedience. As servants, we are aware that we live for Him. We strive for His pleasure, not our own. As King, Jesus has the right to do with us completely as He pleases. He can command us in every area of life - regarding vocation, relationships, language, where we live, our sexuality, money, how we use our time, our vacations and jobs and school and choice of spouse. He is in charge of it all, and always has the prerogative to correct and direct and command. We do not always understand the whys of what He is doing and what He commands, but we are still responsible to obey.

Because we are servants, obedience is the primary way we express our love to Jesus. In a remarkable passage in John 14, Jesus underscores this message multiple times to His disciples:

“If you love me, keep my commands...” (v 15)

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (21)

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.... Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.” (23-24)

Not only are we servants, but a significant part of our identity is that we have been redeemed. Saved. Delivered. Just like the children of Israel who had been delivered from Egyptian bondage, so we have been rescued from the bondage of sin and death. We are those who were once in slavery but now are free. Free to be servants of the true King.