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A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **James 1:1**

*From James,*

- *a slave of God*  
*and the Lord Jesus Christ,...*

- Am I a slave of God?

- Does it matter?

- Yes, it matters a great deal.

- It is not to be ignored.

- It is essential.

- I want to talk to you about a word?
  - Really?
  - A word?
    - A word in the Scripture that says something important that has not been heard much in the church.
  - It seems it is somewhat of a taboo issue.

- There is this concept of slavery in the scripture that has been generally hidden to the English reader.

- The word  
“slave”  
{G1401}  
(do los)

is the most important,  
all-encompassing,  
and clarifying word

to describe a  
disciple of Jesus.

- The concept in today's lesson regarding the word

“slave”

is to be taken as an attitude of the heart.

- In no shape or form do I intend to say that human slavery is acceptable.

- It is used in the words of Jesus and the apostles **constantly,**
- And yet it is rarely **translated correctly.**
- And that word is “**slave**”.



- Before going any further let's divert a moment for we learn in Romans 6:16 that before becoming a slave to God you were already a slave to the Devil.

- Romans 6:16 (NET)

*Do you not know that  
if you present yourselves  
as obedient slaves,*

- *you are slaves  
of the one you obey,*
- *either of sin resulting  
in death,*
- *or obedience resulting  
in righteousness?*

- In the Greek it is  
“doulos”  
{do los}
- “*Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.*”  
(Mark 10:44)
- Jesus said much more  
on this subject.

- Discussions of Greek words seem very theological and geeky.

- The word is “**doulos**”.  
{do los} .

- In the Greek, that word means “**slave**”

- In the Greek,  
that word means

“slave”

(do los)

- Never anything but “slave.”
- It doesn't mean “servant”;
- it doesn't mean “worker”;
- it doesn't mean “hired hand”;
- it doesn't mean “helper.”

- There are other Greek words that mean “servant” in some form.

- But “doulos” {do los} never means “servant.”

- A servant is someone hired to do something.
- The slave is someone owned by another.
- Big difference!
- And yet all through the New Testament the word  
“slave”  
is masked by the translation  
“servant,”  
or some form of the word  
“servant.”

- If you look at your  
KJV,  
you will find the word  
**“slave”**  
{do los}  
**used once.**  
**(Jeremiah 2:14)**

- But in the Old Testament the Hebrew word appears **800 times in the noun,**  
and nearly **300 in the verb.**
- Seems odd that there is a word in the Old Testament for **“*slave*”**  
(H5650)  
{eh bed}  
that appears **eleven hundred times,**
- But in the KJV it's translated **“*slave*”**  
**only once.**



- Most translators only translate the Greek word for “slave”

{do los}

when it's referring to an actual physical slave.

- Very few translations of English New Testaments translate

**doulos**

{do los}

correctly

**every single time.**

- Even though every translator knows it means

“**slave**”

and

**only slave.**

- In one of the most respected of all Greek dictionaries,

**Gerhard Kittel**, says,

“The word

**doulos**

{do los}

**means slave,**

the meaning is so unequivocal,  
no study of history is necessary.”

(Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

- The **NASB** – 1995 version gets it right most of the time.
  - **The Holman Christian Standard Bible** translates the word doulos “slave” every time.
    - The **Goodspeed translation** which translates it slave almost all the time.
- Edgar Goodspeed was a cutting-edge Greek scholar in the 1930s at the University of Chicago.
  - Everybody knows what doulos means.
    - It is no mystery.
    - You can download **Goodspeed New Testament** for E\_Sword free of charge.

- To show you how important it is.
  - Jesus said,  
“No man can serve two masters”
    - What did He say?
      - “Two masters.”
  - *“For either he will hate the one and love the other,*
    - *or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.*
    - You cannot be a slave  
[doulos]  
*to God and wealth.”*  
(**Matthew 6:24**)  
{Goodspeed N.T}

- Well, you could **if you were a servant.**
- You could serve two people.
  - You could have a day job and a night job.
    - A lot of people work for more than one person,
  - **But you can't be a slave to two masters.**
  - Because you can only **be owned by one.**

- **Luke 17:7-10** (GSNT)

"What man among you, if he has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep, will say to him when he comes in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at the table,'

- 17:8 instead of saying to him, 'Get my supper ready, and dress yourself, and wait on me while I eat and drink, and you can eat and drink afterward'?

- 17:9 Is he grateful to the slave for doing what he has been ordered to do?

- 17:10 So you also, when you do all you have been ordered to do, must say,

**'We are good-for-nothing slaves!**

We have done only what we ought to have done!" "

- Why don't all translators translate doulos "slave"?
- For the answer to that question, you have to go back to the first English Bibles,
  - Back to the sixteenth century, back to John Calvin and John Knox and other translators putting together the Geneva Bible.
- The Geneva Bible is one of the most historically significant translations of the Bible into English, preceding the King James Version by 51 years.



- A decision was made not to translate doulos  
“slave.”  
{do los}
- The reason being that there was too much stigma with the concept of being a slave.
- It’s too humiliating, too belittling.

- So they opted to replace it with “**servant**” or “**bond-servant**,” and eliminated the word “**slave**”.
- The only exception is when the New Testament talks about **an actual, physical slave,**
- **They said it’s just too negative.**

- Or when it's referring to an inanimate object,

- “slaves  
of sin”

(Romans 6:6)

- “slaves  
of righteousness.”

(Romans 6:19)

- What were they afraid of?
- And if they think there was some stigma in the sixteenth century with the concept of a slave,
  - How about in the first century?
  - There were as many as twelve million slaves in the Mediterranean world.
- One out of every five people in the Roman Empire was a slave.
  - People of ALL colors.

- Nonetheless,  
the Holy Spirit  
inspired the word

“doulos”.

{do los}

- What does that tell you?

- Since we don't see the word  
**“slave”**  
(do los)  
we are missing  
**a perfect example**  
in understanding  
**our relationship**  
to the Messiah.

- We are confused and want to be servants,
  - Not slaves.
- We need to serve others.
  - But we are a slave to Jesus.
  - We need more slave talk.

- Jesus and the writers of the New Testament scripture talked slave talk all the time.

- But we don't see it because

it's not there in our English text translations.

- Slave talk!

- That's how 1<sup>st</sup> Century disciples referred to themselves.



- Now there's a corresponding word that needs mention as well, and that is the word

“master”.

{G2962}

{koo-ree-os}

- So here is a fundamental question:

- What is our great confession in five words?”

- Jesus is Lord and Master.  
(John 13:14)

- **Romans 10:9-10** says,
- You must confess Jesus as  
“**Lord & Master**”.

- **Kuriosis**

{koo-ree-os}

is

the corresponding word to

“**doulos**”.

{do los}

- Kurios

is a title and means  
“master.”

- Doulos

is

“slave.”

- If you eliminate  
either word  
then the relationship  
is destroyed.

- **If He is Lord,**  
which is to say  
He is Master,  
**then I am**  
**His slave.**

- There's  
no such thing  
as a master  
with no slaves  
• or a slave  
with no master.

- In the Book of Acts

we can see what was preached:

- Acts 4:29

*And now, Lord,  
take note of their threats,  
and give your  
slaves*

*the power to utter  
your message fearlessly,*

**{Goodspeed N.T.}**

- What about the apostles and early disciples?

- Romans 1:2; Philippians 1:1, Titus 1:1

Paul refers to himself,  
as a slave of God.

- James 1:1

“James, a slave of God and the Master  
Jesus the Messiah.”

- 2 Peter 1:1

“Peter the slave.”

- Jude 1:1

“Jude, a slave of Jesus the Messiah, and brother  
of James”

- Revelation 1:1

“John the slave.”

- Every one of them identifies himself as a slave of the Messiah:

- Chosen,
- Bought,
- Owned,
- Obedient unto death.



- **We're called:**
  - Children of God,
  - Heirs and joint-heirs.
- Members of the body of Christ.
  - Even branches and sheep.
    - Each metaphor **presents a unique understanding of your relationship to Jesus.**
- **But the dominating word is still**  
    **“slave.”**  
    (do los)

- People like to talk about Jesus being a personal Savior.
- But that is so ambiguous.
  - What do you mean “a personal Savior,” like a personal butler?
  - Like my own genie who jumps out of His little bottle when I rub it and ask Him for what I want.

- We have lost this incredibly important concept of Jesus as Master and I am His slave.

- We have man made theology in which Jesus is seen as a kind of a buddy who loves you and wants to satisfy all your desires.

- The scriptures teach:  
**You are NOT the Master**  
and Jesus your slave;
  - **He's Master**  
**and you're His slave.**
  - The reality of the  
**Messiah's lordship**  
has been obscured by  
**hiding the word**  
“**slave.**”  
(do los)

- Jesus says in John 15:14,  
“***You are My friends if you do what I command you.***”
- What kind of friendship is that?
  - If I come up to you and say,  
“I want to be your friend.”
  - But, “I just have one requirement.
    - You can be my friend if  
***you do exactly what I command you.***
    - Have you ever heard of  
a friendship like that?

- **Yes!**
- There is a **friendship** just like that.

- **Notice:**

**John 15:15**

***“No longer do I merely  
call you  
slaves,  
I have called you  
friends.”***

- What is the distinction between just being a slave and being a slave who is a friend?
  - A typical slave doesn't know what His master's doing.
  - But Jesus is a different kind of MASTER.
- ***“All things I've heard from My Father, I've made known to you.  
(John 15:15)***
- I let you in on the inside secrets.”

- What does that mean?
  - We're slaves who have been given the privilege of being friends.
- He commands, we obey;
  - But He commands us with full disclosure of all the reasons, marvelous, glorious reasons for doing what He's doing.



- **Our life is not defined by:**
  - My wants,
  - My will,
  - My desires,
  - My ambitions,
  - But by His will,  
His desires,  
His purposes.

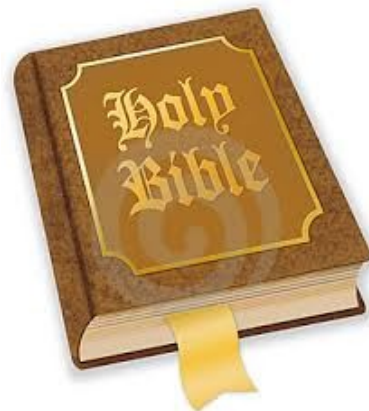
- **That is the basic truth**  
of discipleship:
  - Jesus is my **Master.**  
**Kuriosis**  
{koo-ree-os}
  - I am His **slave.**  
“**doulos**”.
  - {do los}

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



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