

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

EPHESIANS: Awake, O Sleeper - Ephesians 6:5-9 - Servants of the Master - 05.12.2024

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you ever worked for a really difficult boss and/or had a job with responsibilities that you really did not like?
If so, how were you able to navigate the challenges you were facing? *(If not, thank the Lord for that great blessing in your life!)*
On the other hand, have you ever been a boss (supervisor) with people working under your leadership?
If so, how did you treat them as you oversaw them in their work?
In either of the above cases, how did your relationship with Jesus impact how you treated others & carried out responsibilities?
3. How does Ephesians 6:5-9 relate to what's been written in the preceding verses (5:21-6:4)?
Why does the inclusion of these verses make sense here based upon the historical context?
How do Eph. 5:1-2 & 15-21 inform our understanding of the call to both bondservants (slaves) and masters in 6:5-9?
How are the commands given to bondservants & masters in these verses relevant to our lives and our cultural context?
What kind of practical application do you see for your life as you consider this text?
4. As you look at this passage, there is a real emphasis time and again on the heart and being motivated by Christ?
Why do you believe there is such an emphasis on the heart in a passage about outward actions/works?
There is a warning given not to just give "eye-service" as "people-pleasers" but to work as a Servant of Christ?
How does grounding our identity in Jesus lead us away from the temptation to work only when we're seen by others?
What is promised to those who work heartily for the Lord in this life, and how does that impact our ultimate hope?
Have you ever struggled with "people pleasing"? If so, what do you believe is at the root of this struggle?
How can you grow past the insecurities that lead to "people-pleasing" & care more about pleasing the Lord in your life?
How does the reality of ALL of us having an impartial master change how we all relate to one another regardless of position?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
Earthly status has no eternal significance!
Don't waste time chasing after the temporal!
Regardless of position we'll all give an account!
Live with the awareness of this ever before you!
All of us have a shared identity in Christ Jesus!
We're slaves to our good/gracious Master!
In Christ, we are all one and have one goal!
Our collective goal is glory of God in our lives!