

Your “MASTER IN HEAVEN” has done more than deal with us justly and fairly, He has dealt with us in GRACE.

1 Samuel 12:23-24 (NIV)

As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

Barker & Kohlenberger say:

1 Now Paul turns to the duty of masters toward their slaves in terms of dealing justly and equitably with them. Though in the Roman world slaves had few rights, Paul does not hesitate to teach that duty is not all on the side of slaves. Masters too have obligations. Paul’s reason for their being completely fair with their slaves is a compelling one: “because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.” It is to God that Christian masters are accountable for how they treat their slaves. Both master and slave alike bow before one Master, with whom there is no “favoritism.”
p. 840

Fergusson says:

This verse seemeth to be a part of the preceding chapter, whether we look to the purpose which goeth before, or to that which doth follow; wherein he exhorts masters to give unto their servants that which they were obliged, whether by strict law and condition, or by the law of charity and Christian meekness; and that, because they had a Master in heaven, who would reckon with them if they did otherwise.
p. 369

Gaebelein says:

And Masters are exhorted to render unto the slaves that which is just and equal. “Knowing that ye also have a Master who is in heaven.” Before that Master, all will have to appear and there will be no respect of persons.
p. 80

Hendriksen says:

The all-sufficient Christ is also the source of life for household groups. They, too, must draw their inspiration from him, for it is from him that they derive *power* to do what is right and proper, the *purpose* to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, and the *pattern* of obedience.

In the present paragraph wives are told to be submissive to their husbands; husbands to love their wives; next, children, to obey their parents; fathers, to be kind to their children; and finally, slaves to obey their masters, “not with eye-service as men-pleasers but with singleness of heart, fearing the Lord”; and masters, to render to their slaves what is fair and square, remembering that they (these masters), too, have a Master in heaven.
p. 176

Henry says:

You who are masters of others have a Master yourself, and are accountable to one above you. Deal with your servants as you expect God should deal with you. You are both servants of the same Lord and are equally accountable to him at last.”
p. 1874

Let's conclude our meditation with singing that great old hymn:

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting

Jesus, I am resting, resting
 In the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness
 Of Thy loving heart.
 Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee,
 And Thy beauty fills my soul,
 For by Thy transforming power,
 Thou has made me whole.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
 I behold Thee as Thou art,
 And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,
 Satisfies my heart;
 Satisfies its deepest longings,
 Meets, supplies its every need,
 Compasseth me round with blessings:
 Thine is love indeed!

Ever lift Thy face upon me
 As I work and wait for Thee;
 Resting 'neath Thy smile,
 Lord Jesus, Earth's dark shadows flee.
 Brightness of my Father's glory,
 Sunshine of my Father's face,
 Keep me ever trusting, resting,
 Fill me with Thy grace. Jesus,

Refrain:

Jesus, I am resting, resting
 In the joy of what Thou art;
 I am finding out the greatness
 Of Thy loving heart.

("Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting" by Jean S. Pigott. *The New Church Hymnal*,
 Lexicon Music, Inc., 1976. #373)