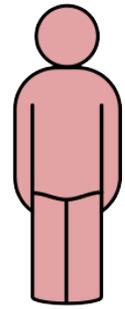


Right-hand Sons

I grew up in the evangelical church system and moved to the Pentecostal & Charismatic systems in my adult life as I looked for the reality of what it meant to be a Christian. In all 3 of these systems I was told that Jesus expected me to be either a servant, a slave or a bondservant. Each of these categories, of course, were backed-up by scripture (called ‘scriptural proofs’).

Despite these ‘facts’ there is confusion in the ideas behind this categorization. In fact, there’s a very real and significant objection to being any or all of these three in that Jesus, our prototype, demonstrated how we are to operate as sons. Although he stated that he came to serve not to be served,¹ he never operated as a slave – never. He also taught that his disciples/followers were not to be his slaves². Because of his intimate connection with them (and now us) he related to them as “friends”³ instead. His parable of ‘The Prodigal Son’ (which should really be known as ‘The Prodigal Father’ or ‘The Outrageously Loving Father’) showed that Father’s attitude to us coming back into his family is that, even though we are only worthy to be slaves, he reinstates us as sons with his full authority (that’s why he gave the son a signet ring, the family ring).

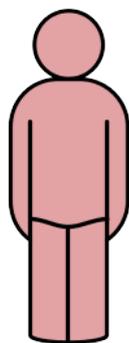


Slave

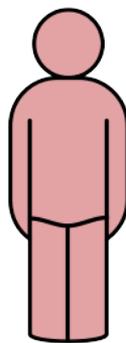
Jesus also couldn’t be a genuine bondservant because he hadn’t been bought by someone. However, he operated like one because he desired to only do what Father wanted him to do,⁴ and he did that out of his love for Father. But we have been bought,⁵ and so we can genuinely be a bondservant⁶ mimicking Jesus’ life.

We are not slaves – slaves don’t live in Father’s house as his family.⁷ We are free-men set free by the truth and by the King.⁸

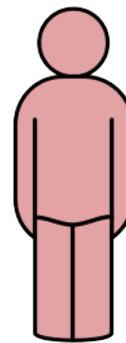
Graham Cooke, in his MP3 teaching series, ‘A Way in the Wilderness’⁹ speaks strongly about the concepts of us being a servant, a steward and a bondservant.¹⁰ These are important concepts for us to understand.



Servant



Steward



Bond
Servant

However, unlike what I was taught in the church system, a servant, a steward and a bondservant are not to be my identity. These are the way I live my life in the Kingdom – they are my modes of operation. If I choose to see myself as any of these 3 I cannot rise up to be a son in the true sense of that identity in the

1 – Matthew 20:28

2 – The term in Greek used in John 15:15 is Δοῦλος which most bibles translate as ‘servant’. But the word means, ‘slave’, ‘bondman’, ‘servant’ & ‘attendant’. That means if we use a bible translated from the Greek then Jesus could have been referring to any or all of these meanings – we don’t know because we weren’t there to ask him.

3 – John 15:15

4 – John 5:30

5 – 1 Corinthians 7:23

6 – Romans 1:1

7 – John 8:35

8 – John 8:31, 36

9 – www.brilliantbookhouse.com/products/a-way-in-the-wilderness

10 – Session 4, parts 3

Kingdom. Identifying myself as any one of those 3 will cause me to be less than my potential which I was created to reach. Also, all of these tends to produce miserable and condemned Christians – I know, I used to be one.

These days as I'm being trained by the King, I'm learning what he wants me/us to become because he knows what Father wants. He even demonstrated what we are to be like when he was the man, Jesus of Nazareth. He wants 'right-hand sons'. How do I know? I've been told.¹¹ I knew that our identity as a slave, servant or bondservant were not accurate because of the teaching we had already received from Father. In July 2019 as I was thinking about the type of sons Father wanted us to be, I was given the term "Right-hand son" in my spirit. I didn't know what that meant, so I had to wait to be given understanding.

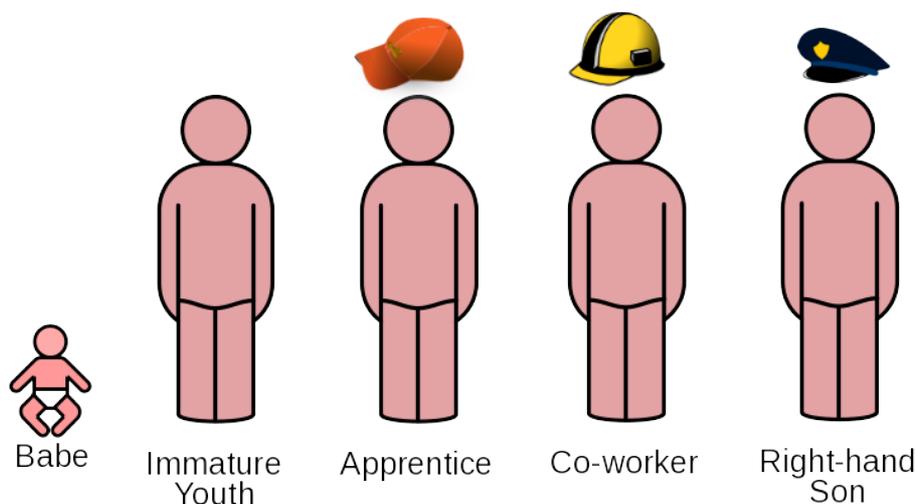
In Australia we have an old expression that's not used any more because of political correctness (PC): 'right-hand man'. In some industries in Australia they are known as a 'lead-hand' or 'leading-hand'. A 'right-hand man' was the title given to the most valuable man that a leader or boss had. He was dependable, loyal and skilful, and the one person that could always be relied on. This is the type of son Father is wanting to make us into. A 'right-hand son' is this type of son. Using ancient terminology they would be known as 'the son of my right hand'.

'Right-hand' in ancient times was an integral concept in families and cultures. It is even an important concept in the Bible. (See the references at the end of this article). For example:

Psalm 80:17 (NKJV) – *Let Your hand be upon **the man of Your right hand**, upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself.*

So what does Father mean by wanting us to become a 'right-hand son'?

The illustration below will help in explaining the concept.



BABE – We come into the Kingdom as a babe¹² when we were "born from above". This is where most denominational Christians remain (from my experience and observation).

Worldly simile: *The toddler of a millionaire businessman.*

IMMATURE YOUTH – We know we are sons of God because the Bible says so and the paster reminds us. We presumptively operate like a son without actually being trained and directed by the Spirit. This is where many pentecostal and charismatic Christians remain (from my experience and observation).

Worldly simile: *The child of a millionaire businessman who acts important and who pushes their weight around because of who their dad is.*

11 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/MESSAGE-Right-hand-Sons-28-7-2019.pdf

12 – Matthew 18:3 (1 Corinthians 3:1)

APPRENTICE – We join ourselves to the King and learn to be about his Kingdom business.

Worldly simile: The adolescent child of a millionaire businessman who spends their holidays working for their dad so they can ‘learn the ropes’.

CO-WORKER – We completely align ourselves with the King and “yolk” ourselves to him. Our only desire is to be about Father’s business as we expand his Kingdom on Earth.

Worldly simile: The son/daughter of a millionaire businessman who works for their dad in a position in one of his companies.

RIGHT-HAND SON – We are released into Kingdom business led by the Spirit doing only what we are told. We work in excellence and are totally trusted by the King. Our heart is his and his is ours.

Worldly simile: The son/daughter of a millionaire businessman who runs one of his companies.

Our identity is a son of the Most High God – not servant, slave or bondservant. We operate in the Kingdom by serving the King and serving others, and we choose to do this. But, **we are sons who serve, not servants/slaves who are sons**. There is a big difference in how we live our lives on Earth depending on which we see as our identity.

Here’s a question for you: Why did Father voice his opinion of Jesus and say, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well please”, when he hadn’t done anything yet? Because for 30-odd years he’d learnt to be a son whom Father recognised was the type he wanted to produce. This is clear from this statement: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men”¹³. He’d been trained to be a son all his life and at this point in his life he was commissioned to start working for the Kingdom in earnest – i.e. that’s when he was released into his ‘ministry’, not before.

So, we’ve been told enough times by our King that he wants us to grow up and mature as sons. This means we are not to stay immature. Now we know that he wants us to take leading roles as ‘right-hand sons’, but he can only do that if we allow him to train us and prepare us for what he wants us to do. It’s all up to us and how much we are prepared to surrender to his will.

Laurence

17-7-2019

(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

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The Biblical Precedent

If the Bible as your reference point, you’ll find that the concept of ‘right hand’ is a significant idea in it because of it’s importance in ancient times. See the following quotes.

Genesis 48:17-18 (NKJV) – Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father’s hand to remove it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this *one is* the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.”

13 – Luke 2:52

Psalm 144:8¹⁴ (NKJV) – Whose mouth speaks lying words, And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

Ecclesiastes 10:2 (NKJV) – A wise man’s heart is at his right hand, But a fool’s heart at his left.

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV) – Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

Isaiah 41:13 (NKJV) – For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’

Isaiah 45:1 (NKJV) – [*Cyrus, God’s Instrument*] “Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:

Isaiah 62:8 (NKJV) – The Lord has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength:

Jeremiah 22:24 (NKJV) – [*Message to Coniah*] “As I live,” says the Lord, “though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off;

Habakkuk 2:16 (NKJV) – You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also—drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the Lord’s right hand will be turned against you, And utter shame will be on your glory.

Matthew 22:44 (NKJV) – ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?

Matthew 25:33 (NKJV) – And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Acts 5:31 (NKJV) – Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Galatians 2:9 (NKJV) – and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Revelation 1:17 (NKJV) – And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

14 – Also Psalm 144:11