

**Not for Sale – Bible Study & Journal Companion**  
**Week Seven**

**First Encounter: Day 1 Reflections**

It is stunning that here in the United States, one of the world's champions for freedom and liberty, day and night young girls are being forced to have sex with men; men are forced to work long hours in fields doing work that breaks and burns their backs; and women are forced to serve as domestic servants, living in horrible conditions. Chapter Six of *Not For Sale* focuses our attention on slavery in America and introduces us to some of the modern-day abolitionists who are working to end it. Start your study this week by reading pages ??-??.

The Underground Railroad was an informal network of secret routes and safe houses used by 19th century Black slaves in the United States to escape to “free states” and Canada with the aid of abolitionists who were sympathetic to their cause.

Today a new Underground Railroad is being constructed – with new strategies for transporting slaves to freedom. The slaves used to be visible, on plantations and in homes. But today's slaves are hidden. The modern “plantation” may be as elusive as the Internet or as present as a neighbor's basement. As you explore this week's chapter and turn to God's Word for nourishment, think of the similarities between the Underground Railroad of the 1800s and the one being built today. Think of the abolitionists we read about in our history books and the abolitionists today. Isn't the requirement to become an abolitionist today the same as it was 200 years ago? Isn't it a willingness to act? Are you someone who is willing to take action?

**Day 1: Focus on the Biblical Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

**Day 1: Thoughts into Action**  
**Finding Your Season**

**Comment [ITS1]:** John, this is not NIV. I'll try to find the appropriate translation on the Internet, or I'll change it to NIV and add in verse #s.

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For most of us the message of Ecclesiastes above is familiar, whether from reading Scripture or growing up listening to the song. It's easy to hear these words and feel all warm and comfortable inside, but when we really stop to listen to what is being said we hear a radical message.

In these words we hear an invitation, a compelling call. We recognize that there are different seasons for different actions. We can't simply go by rote behavior and coast along in life. Each day brings new possibilities that may require us to shift our approach, alter our perspective. The author of Ecclesiastes is describing a radical life of wisdom and discerning what God is doing. It is not easy; it is not comfortable to remain alert and attentive, to notice the shifts. This is a righteous calling. This could stir us to the depths of our soul and back again, if we just let it.

When in your life have you felt a time, or a "season," for things as mentioned above? Have you ever experienced a time of great challenge to which you had to rise up?

Invite the Spirit of God to lead you to recognize what season you are in right now.

In regards to the modern-day abolitionist movement, what *time* is this for you? A time to....what?

Just as the slaves of old followed the North Star, Polaris, to find freedom, today's slaves are finding their North Star. The Polaris Project took its name from the abolitionist movement of old.

Katherine Chon and Derek Ellerman, co-founders of the Polaris Project, each had to face the issue of a shift in season. Chon was appalled that as a senior at an Ivy League school, she hadn't learned a thing about the issue of human trafficking. They both could have felt disturbed and then moved on in their lives. Instead, they dug in and began to do something.

"Katherine points out that the original nineteenth-century version [of the Underground Railroad] did not rely solely, or even primarily, on elite sectors of American society. Grassroots activists, many of whom had no formal education, built the movement. 'At that time it didn't matter who you were, or what kind of education or experience you had,' she says, 'only that you were willing to join in the fight to stop slavery'" (p. 247).

Have you wondered if you had anything to offer this movement as we've studied this material? What do you have to offer to this movement? What resistance do you face as you think about doing something?

Internal resistance: within your own heart, soul and mind

External resistance: family, friends, acquaintances

Activity: Take a moment and reflect on the lives of one of the individuals, survivor or abolitionist, that you have read about in this chapter or preceding chapter. Write a "Time

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for Everything” song of your own in response to their life. Let yourself really imagine what their life is like and what they are feeling and experiencing. What were the seasons of their life?

### **Day 1: Prayer of Response**

Lord, I am here in this time, this present reality with all of its many colors. I ask You, Lord, to give me extraordinary wisdom and discernment that I may know what time it is and be courageous enough to engage that time. You have already won the battle and given me all I need; all that's left is for me to start marching. Praise your Holy and Victorious name, Lord of Heaven and Earth! Amen.

## **Second Encounter: Day 2 Reflections**

The Washington, D.C.-based organization Free the Slaves conducted a research project that was published as *Hidden Slaves: Forced Labor in the United States*, which “thoroughly documents the nature and scope of slavery inside American borders” (p 237). What the organization discovered is shocking, indeed.

“U.S. citizens and permanent residents import thousands of domestic servants into this country as slaves” (p 228). How is this any different than the slavery that existed in the Old South? Is it possible that the same rationalizations that were used then are used today to justify the use of slaves? Or maybe the slaveholders don’t feel the need to justify their actions at all.

Also amazing is how the research revealed that slavery touches each aspect of our lives:

- 75% of all New York apparel manufacturing firms are sweatshops, and
- The work that slaves are forced to do in the U.S. includes: prostitution and sex services (46%), domestic service (27%), agriculture (10%), sweatshop/factory work (5%), restaurant/hotel work (4%) (p. 228).

Consider the clothing we wear: who stitched those hems? Who cleared the table at the local restaurant I went to last night? Who made the bed in the hotel we stayed in last spring? Who picked that avocado I enjoyed for lunch today? Could it have been a slave?

### **Day 2: Focus on the Biblical Text: Matthew 18:10-14**

<sup>10</sup>“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. <sup>11</sup>For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”

<sup>12</sup>“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

<sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup>In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.” [NIV]

### **Day 2: Thoughts into Action Finding Lost Sheep**

What is your response to the data Batstone features revealing that slavery is currently thriving in North America?

Following the facts revealed from the report by Free the Slaves, we learn of the sex-trafficking ring operated in the Midwest that was busted up in January of 2003. Do you

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remember your initial response the first time you learned that girls as young as 12 or 13 were kidnapped and forced into providing sexual services?

*“...He rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray...”*

*“...So it is the not will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish...”*

Activity: Spend some time meditating on the character of the shepherd who leaves the 99 in search of the one who has gone astray. Take some time to write or draw your thoughts and ideas on what that story might mean for the millions of individuals trapped in slavery today.

## Day 2: Digging Deeper

In July of 2008, ABC's "Primetime" news magazine introduced viewers to two cousins from Ohio. Carol, 14, and Kimberly, 15, were fun-loving teens one day and sex slaves the next. What happened? According to the "Primetime" special, Carol and Kimberly decided to walk to Wendy's one evening in their suburban neighborhood. It was raining, so they were pleased when a man drove up and offered to give them a ride. They thought they knew him. They thought he was the father of one of their classmates at school. They thought he'd take them to Wendy's and, maybe, drive them back home, too. They were wrong.

Carol and Kimberly were kidnapped and forced to enter the dark world of sex trafficking. As their parents frantically searched for them, Carol and Kimberly were driven to truck stops in the Midwest and forced into prostitution. They were rescued and returned to their families. Their trafficker and his accomplices were arrested and prosecuted. Is that a "happy ending"? Think of the innocence stolen from two teens who just wanted a Frosty before dinner.

The ABC news program quoted FBI special agent Mike Beaver: "There are children throughout the United States who are being sold as prostitutes. It's not uncommon to see 12- and 13-year-olds out. What we've learned is if you have adult prostitution in an area, there's probably child prostitution occurring as well. So it's more of a black market; it's more underground, but it's there" (<http://abcnews.go.com/Primetime/story?id=5326721&page=1>).

Have you ever driven by a teen prostitute? What crossed your mind as you drove by? Are they the "lost sheep"? If so, who is searching for them, rejoicing when they are found? How will this information affect what you think the next time you hear about a kidnapped young girl or woman?

## Day 2: Prayer of Response

O, Glorious One! I am one of your precious sheep, and I rejoice at the finding of the little ones who have been lost. I ask that You guide me, Lord, to find the lost sheep in my community and bring them safely home. Amen.

### **Third Encounter: Day 3 Reflections**

Chica Garcia was abducted from her rural village in Guatemala, trafficked through the Mexican border, and brought to Florida to be a field, domestic, and sex slave for a man and his family. Even upon her rescue Garcia refused to leave the residence of her trafficker because of the curse he placed upon her. It may be hard for some of us to imagine the feeling of being trapped by a curse, but it is very real for many people, and it leaves them open for easy exploitation. A lock of hair is all it took to keep Garcia under house arrest.

### **Day 3: Focus on the Biblical Text: Mark 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. <sup>2</sup>Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup>Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.” <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>6</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. [NIV]

### **Day 3: Thoughts into Action Religious Leadership**

Jesus blew their minds when He healed that man’s hand. To the Pharisees, this man was simply a piece of bait to test Jesus. Instead of thinking of his need for healing, they watched to see if they could “catch” Jesus in a sin. Imagine the liberation that the man must have felt upon being healed.

Imagine yourself as a participant in this story from the point of view of each character or group. Consider the motives of the Pharisees. What were the Pharisees really interested in? Is this the calling of religious leaders? If not, to what behavior do we believe a “religious leader” is called?

Activity: Write down each person/group in the passage. Write a one-sentence summary of their motives. Why are motives so central to action?

### **Day 3: Digging Deeper**

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Chica Garcia was a victim of multiple layers of oppression. The final layer that kept her in the house of her captor even after being offered freedom was spiritual oppression. What do you know about spiritual oppression? What characterizes spiritual oppression?

What role does fear play in most instances of spiritual oppression?

What does spiritual freedom look like? Psalm 119:32 speaks to this issue: "... for you have set my heart free." Verse 45 also speaks of freedom: "I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts."

What does spiritual freedom require of you?

### **Day 3: Prayer of Response**

Lord, I know Your heart is grieved over these spiritual oppressions. So many people are vulnerable because of their awareness that there is something "bigger" than them out there. I pray they will know the freedom of knowing they need not fear, for they are Yours. I pray for available eyes, ears, and hearts willing to be part of the healing process and hands that heal in your name. In great love for You I offer these concerns. Amen.

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### **Fourth Encounter: Day 4**

“Human slavery, they came to realize, is not only a serious crisis in China, Thailand, Nepal, Ukraine, and other poor nations. Strong trafficking networks operate covertly within U.S. borders as well and even reach to massage parlors within a few blocks of the White House” (p. 243).

From coast to coast, abolitionists have risen up to work in partnership with authorities. The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking was founded after a raid in El Monte, California, in 1995 where 72 garment workers were discovered to have been enslaved for seven years. Anna Rodriguez established the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking after all that she learned from her work with Chica Garcia to build bridges between law enforcement, social services, and victims of human trafficking.

These groups and other NGOs are making a difference in this country. The United States has a broad scope of influence politically and economically. When the citizens and residents of this country make changes, the world takes notice.

### **Day 4: Focus on the Biblical Text: Ezekiel 22:27-31**

<sup>27</sup>[The officials of the city, or, “Her officials”] are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says'-when the LORD has not spoken. The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the alien, denying them justice. "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."

**Comment [ITS2]:** John, not NIV. Can I just change it to NIV?

### **Day 4: Thoughts into Action Naming Your Dream**

*...I looked for a [person] among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none (Ez. 22:30).*

Read the following excerpt from the speech of one such man – someone who stood in the gap on behalf of the land. Not a perfect man but a man of devout faith and justice, a man who delivered one of the most famous speeches of all time. Let justice, love, mercy and humility wash over you and inspire you.

“No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

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I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

*“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.”  
Dr. Cornel West*

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today” (<http://www.usconstitution.net/dream.html>).  
-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Aug 28, 1963, Washington, D.C.

Activity: What dreams do you have for your country today? While few have been gifted with Dr. King’s oration skills, we can all be inspired by his great dreams for his country – and his children. Write your dreams. Put down on paper what you would like the future to look like.

### Day 4: Digging Deeper

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a freedom fighter in his own time, and his work has transformed our world. Like those who chose to travel the Underground Railroad, he blazed a trail against great resistance. He chose to stand up to injustice because he loved God and shared His passion for justice and freedom.

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Even though his “I Have a Dream” speech specifically addressed the injustices committed against African Americans in the United States, it can inspire us as we address the injustices committed against modern-day slaves, the majority of whom are female.

Eighty percent of the victims of human trafficking are female. Why is it that so many slaves are female? The numbers are so skewed. Canadian-born Kay Buck, currently Executive Director of CAST in Los Angeles, noticed a destructive cultural pattern from her early days of counter-trafficking that seems to provide a clue to this question: “Society tolerates violence against women” (p. 252).

Derek Ellerman of the Polaris Project is calling for a shift in cultural perception when it comes to trafficking (and violence against women) as has taken place in various arenas. Consider these shifts in cultural perception:

- Seat-belts in the ‘60s were in most, but not all, vehicles. In the ‘70s they were used by some but considered a nuisance by many. In the 1980s law were passed mandating their use in most parts of North American. Today we feel bare if we sit in a car seat without being buckled.
- In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, smoking was glamorized. Now every pack carries the Surgeon General’s warning, and numerous states have passed laws limiting smokers’ ability to light up in public places. There are no cigarette advertisements on television, and the negative health effects are common knowledge.
- Domestic violence was considered a private family matter not to be discussed. Today great strides have been taken to educate people about the victim mind-set and provide shelters for victims of domestic violence.

Dr. King saw the injustice in his day and did something. As you consider the core societal problem of tolerating violence against women, why do you think violence against women is tolerated? What do you believe the “roots” of violence towards women to be?

How would you express to someone who knows little about human trafficking the connection between violence against women and human trafficking?

Finally, consider what steps you can take to be a part of the shift in thinking regarding women in our society – and worldwide.

### Day 4: Prayer of Response

Lord, the evil in this world is so great and sometimes so terrifying that I am rendered immobile. Let me not give in to that temptation any longer! Give me courage and strength to rise up and bring tools to contribute in building this new Underground Railroad. I want to stand and fight for the justice that is so dear to Your heart. I admit that I have neglected to pursue justice in many ways, and I ask Your forgiveness. Let my love for You and for my oppressed brothers and sisters inspire me to action! Amen.

### **Fifth Encounter: Day 5 Reflections**

Simple statements can pack a powerful punch. Here's one from Louis Etongwe: "I realized that if I didn't take action, no one else would" (p. 249).

Etongwe had one conversation over Thanksgiving dinner, and his suspicions were raised. How could the story this girl told him be true? He made the decision to believe her and take action.

And later he made a brave call to a home in New Jersey, identified by the first girl he had freed as a home where another girl from Cameroon was enslaved. On the other end of the line was the daughter of his cousin! And she said, "Please, Mr. Etongwe ... free me from this prison. I fear for my life" (p. 250)!

Her prison was a home. It may look a lot like those in our neighborhood. In fact, she could have been serving one of our neighbors.

And what did Etongwe get for his bravery? The angered slaveholders tried to deflect the attention of law enforcement onto him. The police showed up at his door.

He took great risks. He spent his own money. He took on the role of investigator in order to discover the truth. He so longed to see these girls set free and justice done. Yes, it was a risk but look at the fruit of his labors.

The choice between action and inaction is often not a choice we make consciously. It is frequently a choice we make unintentionally. Etongwe chose action, and it led him down the path of a freedom fighter.

### **Day 5: Focus on the Biblical Text: Micah 6:8**

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. [NIV]

### **Day 5: Thoughts into Action Walking, Acting, Loving**

Again, simple statements pack a powerful punch. This is but one verse, yet it delivers cogent truth. Simply sit in the presence of the God of the universe and contemplate each phrase. God makes it clear that He requires action from believers. This is not a request or an encouragement. God chose the word "require" here. What is our Heavenly Father requiring us to do?

Activity: What is your response to each part of this verse? Write out your thoughts after each phrase below:

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- To act justly
- To love mercy
- To walk humbly
- With our God.

### Day 5: Digging Deeper

What is a perfect opportunity? Consider where Entongwe was when he first heard the story of the young girl from his homeland. Would you think of it as perfect timing? Do you think he walked into that Thanksgiving gathering and thought “Man, I am so ready to jump into the role of a modern-day abolitionist”?

Have you had an opportunity presented to you to act justly? Did it feel like it was a perfect opportunity? Did you take the opportunity, or did you let it pass?

What do Entongwe’s actions say about his character? What about his family?

What thoughts would cross your mind? “This is my holiday; I deserve a break. Dealing with this would rob me of well-deserved rest and relaxation. It’s not really my problem. What can I do anyway?” Didn’t Entongwe have the opposite response?

Are you ready to respond even when you think it least likely that you will be needed? Remember, Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, “There is a time for everything....” Ecclesiastes 4:6 says “For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter ...” (NIV).

How ready is your heart to love and serve the Lord at a moment’s notice? If you heard God asking you to move, even when you were least expecting it, would you do so?

### Day 5: Prayer of Response

Lord, ready my heart for action at any time. Show me more of what You require of me. Reveal to me what it means to act justly, day in and day out; help me to see into and through these seemingly routine situations in which I find myself. Ready my hands to respond with Your healing touch. I am here to serve You, Lord. Amen.

### **Sixth Encounter: Day 6 Reflections**

A young orphan boy from Zambia, Gavin Kachepa, is given an opportunity of a lifetime. He is invited by a pastor from the United States to go and sing for the glory of God. For his services Kachepa is promised things he would never have imagined could be in his grasp. Of course his aunt, his guardian, would sign the release.

“The promises that Pastor Grimes made to Kachepa and Aunt Margaret seemed like a dream come true. The boy could earn some money for his destitute family and gain a top-drawer education in the United States. Pastor Grimes also pledged that the boys would be baptized once they reached the United States, which to a Christian convert in Zambia, means a great deal” (p. 254.)

Broken promises abounded in Pastor Grimes’ TTT ministry. This is just one of many. “Each day at TTT headquarters in Texas, the staff woke up the boys at the crack of dawn and forced them to dig by hand a deep hole to build a swimming pool.” Then they still had to sing for many hours, late into the evening. But, on tour, the boys worked 18-hour days every day of the week. Kachepa remarks, “I felt like a puppet on a string being moved around. I was told to smile and sing with an expression of joy for my God, but eventually singing to the Lord lost its meaning for me” (p. 255).

### **Day 6: Focus on the Biblical Text: Micah 3:5-12 (excerpts)**

<sup>5</sup>This is what the LORD says: “As for the prophets who lead my people astray...<sup>6</sup>night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them. <sup>7</sup>The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced. They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God.”... <sup>9</sup>Hear this, you leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; <sup>10</sup>who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness.... <sup>12</sup>Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

### **Day 6: Thoughts into Action Corrupting Power**

The pastor duplicitously enslaved the Zambian boys. Once again, we see the Lord’s name being used in vain. A pastor, trusted as a man of God, who brings authority and power with him is actually a trafficker. This very man abused his power and authority, gained access to the lives of these vulnerable boys, then pushed them at a grueling pace in order to bring in funds that he promised would build schools in their homeland. He never built those schools.

What is your reaction to this story? Consider how the passage from Micah reveals what God’s perspective may be in this situation.

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What expectations do you have of spiritual leaders? While they are all human and fallible, should those who lead flocks of believers be held to higher standards?

Now consider the actions of Sandy Shepherd. Her suspicions of this organization had been raised earlier, and she had raised the alarm to no avail. But when the call came to act, when asked to find safe houses for the boys, when the alternative would have been an INS holding cell, she rose to the challenge.

Is there room in your life to respond if your pastor were to call you with a similar challenge? Would you be willing to make room?

Activity: Review verses 9-12. These are very strong words that expose the Lord's anger over situations just like the one with Pastor Grimes and the Zambian boys' choir. The Lord's anger over injustice and His passion for peace and justice drive Him to action.

Write your own song of justice for Kachepa or just spend time singing one of your favorite hymns, offering your heart in musical worship to the Lord who loves justice.

### Day 6: Digging Deeper

Pastor Grimes and Sandy Shepherd represent two extremes. Both call themselves Christians, people of faith who love the Lord. Yet, the actions are on opposite ends of a continuum. One is selfish and exploitative, while the other is selfless and compassionate. In his principle that has come to be known by philosophers as the virtue ethics, Aristotle cautions against extremes. Isn't the "middle ground" where most of us hang out anyway?

Where is the Church, the corporate body of believers, on the continuum that has Grimes on one end and Shepherd on the other? Does the corporate body need to repent for its actions – or its inaction – in the area of human trafficking?

What does repent mean? We may have images of a sorrowful, tear-stricken person lying prostrate, loudly proclaiming their distress over the awful sins they have committed. While this could be true repentance, the simplest meaning of the word conveys a turning towards a new way, away from an old way.

*I can't stand your religious meetings  
I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions  
I want nothing to do with your religion projects,  
Your pretentious slogans and goals  
I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,  
Your public relations and image making  
I've had all I can with your noisy ego-music*

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*When was the last time you sang to me?  
Do you know what I want?  
I want justice—oceans of it.  
I want fairness—rivers of it  
That's what I want. That's all I want.*

Amos 5:21–24, *The Message*

These words are strong, yet they reflect the heart of God. Does the Church, the Bride of Christ, need to repent? Are we completely dedicated to justice and fairness – oceans of it? Conclude your reflection by drilling down to your church, your group, and your individual walk as a believer. Where are you on the continuum of justice?

### **Day 6: Prayer of Response**

Lord, Your heart is full of strong emotions and Your mouth is full of strong words. Let me be one of Your strong followers. Like the song sung by children, “we are weak, but He is strong,” let me be constantly reminded of your strength and power. Keep me true to You and to others. Keep me from the evil of misleading one of Your children. Keep me from corrupting Your words of truth. Let me take a stand together with others, united as Your people ready to fight for freedom, even if it feels like we have no room in our life to do so. Amen.

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### Community Gathering

**Comment [ITS3]:** Wex, does any of this look useful?

“No child under seventeen years old who operates in the commercial sex industry should be treated as a criminal. ‘In every major city across America today, we arrest and punish eleven-year-old girls for the fact that they are sexually abused! How crazy is that!’” (**Not For Sale**, p. 248).

It is happening here. It is happening now. Little girls are imprisoned because there isn’t any other system in place for housing someone who has been forced into prostitution. The story is repeated across the land, in Atlanta, in Las Vegas, in ... your town. This is simply not okay. There must be other alternatives. We just need people who are willing and available to do things that may look outrageous, like house a former slave.

We are all unlikely heroes in this battle. We are all on the same team. Together we can work to see the end of slavery in our lifetime.

In the training sessions developed by Anna Rodriguez, she highlights “hot spots” to be aware of. They include:

- Housecleaning
- Landscape
- Domestic Workers
- Large Agriculture
- Construction Workers
- Casinos
- Garment Factories
- Hotels
- Nail Salons
- Transitional Communities
- Prostitution
- Strip Clubs
- Massage Parlors
- Domestic Violence Cases

Consider how your life may intersect with any of the above. This just may be where you get to ‘act’. Given Kachepa, the former boy singer, provides one of the most memorable lines in **Not For Sale** when he describes what he informs groups about the problem of human trafficking, “Look beneath the surface.” (**Not For Sale**, p. 257).

Then Anna’s words conclude this life-changing book:

“Human trafficking can only work if the victims remain invisible to the public eye. We have to remove the veil of ignorance” (**Not For Sale**, p. 268).

**I WOULD LIKE TO TURN EVERYTHING BELOW INTO A WEEK 8. RATHER THAN A DAY-BY-DAY STUDY, I WANT PARTICIPANTS TO READ THE CONCLUSION OF THE BOOK, PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER NEXT STEPS, AND THEN MEET TOGETHER ONE LAST TIME TO PRAY THIS PRAYER AND REVIEW THE INCREDIBLE STATEMENTS IN THE CONCLUDING PAGES OF NFS.**

### **Prayer of Response**

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. –Ephesians 1:17-19*

Humbly we come before you, Lord. We repent of our old ways and are turning together toward a new way of justice and freedom for all. We know we must engage in this battle yet we recognize that this is a giant before us. Give us courage and your strength, Lord. We pray as you taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy Name  
Thy Kingdom Come  
Thy Will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts  
As we forgive our debtors  
Lead us not into temptation,  
Deliver us from evil.  
From thine is the Kingdom, the Power, the Glory,  
Forever.  
Amen.

### **Conclusion**

**“I believe in the power of individuals to change the world.” David Batstone, p. 269.**

We’ve come so far on our journey together. Let us continue to grow. We each had our own motives that initially inspired us to read this book, to dig deeper into this study.

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Now, we are more informed as we commit to take further steps into the abolitionist movement together.

So what now? Here are a few ideas to offer:

First, this has been an intense journey and you've shared deeply. Here are some ideas that might help you close out your time together as a group:

- Throw one Large Freedom Party to celebrate your freedom together. Create a mural, list or other piece that gives a physical representation of what freedom you have, what freedom everyone should have, what freedom means to you. Share poetry, short stories, food, drink, and other works (maybe even have some of NightLight's jewelry for sale!). Celebrate and be moved to action with your brothers and sisters in Christ!
- Have a movie night where you show a movie containing themes of freedom. Some examples: Trade, William Wilberforce, Amistad, Human Trafficking, Not For Sale (the documentary), etc. Discuss the movie afterward.
- Create a Freedom campaign in your local community – sign petitions, raise money, have a \_\_\_\_\_ competition (ie: a bake-off, a race), etc. Get creative!
- You may want to continue to meet together on a regular basis to continue your collective inspiration. You may even want to form an official "Abolitionist" group.

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Second, on a personal note:

- Consider David’s challenge to an abolitionist vocation. We’ve included a simple worksheet on the two simple steps he suggests in discovering your vocation. (See Appendix I).
- Review the notes you’ve taken as you’ve gone through this book to refresh yourself on what stirred you. We recommend doing this annually. In re-reading this material after over a year of pursuing this vocation, I found fresh creativity and inspiration being stirred up.
- If you’ve found issues stirred up in your own heart connected to abuse you have endured, we encourage you to pursue healing.
- We highly recommend you create some personal action items with due dates from some of the ideas that have struck you as you’ve gone through this study. Find a friend or two to share these deadlines with so they can ask you “Hey, how’s that going?”

We thank you for taking the time to dig through this weighty material. We honor your courage and pray that you will continue to respond to the invitation to:

“To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”  
Micah 6:8

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### A Justice Creed

(Brian McLaren's contribution to the book *Justice in the Burbs*)

We believe that God is just and that God loves justice.  
God delights in just laws and rejoices in just people.  
God liberates those who are oppressed by injustice  
And is grieved by unjust people and the unjust systems they create and sustain.  
God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice.  
And God's kingdom belongs to those willing to be persecuted for the sake of justice.  
To God, justice is a weighty thing that can never be ignored.  
We believe that Jesus came to display the justice of God,  
In word and deed, in life, death and resurrection.  
The justice God desires, which he taught, must surpass that of the hypocrites,  
For the justice of God is a compassionate justice,  
Rich in mercy and abounding in love for the last, the least, the lost and the excluded.  
On the cross, Jesus drew the injustice of humanity into the light.  
And there the heartless injustice of human empire met  
The reconciling justice of the kingdom of God.  
The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that the true justice of God,  
Naked, vulnerable and scarred by abuse, is stronger  
Than the violent injustice of humanity, armed with weapons, conceit, deceit and lies.  
We believe that the Holy Spirit is here now,  
Convicting the world of sin and injustice,  
Warning that God's judgement will come on all that is unjust.  
We believe that the kingdom of God is not a matter of superficial things  
But is justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.  
Empowered by the Spirit, then, we seek God's kingdom and we seek God's justice,  
For the world as it is has not yet become the world as God desires it to be.  
And so we live and work and pray,  
Until justice rolls down like a water,  
Until justice flows like a never-ending stream.  
For we believe that god is just, and the true and living God loves justice.  
Amen.

(*Justice in the Burbs*, by Will and Lisa Samson, pg 30-31, 2007, Baker Books, Grand Rapids MI)

**Comment [ITS4]:** We may be able to reprint this through fair use since we are not profiting from the study guide, but I would feel more comfortable if we had permission to reprint this. Anyone know Brian McLaren????????

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### Appendix I

**“Locate where your passion meets the needs of the world.”** Batstone.

1. What are you passionate about?

What is it that you find just gets your blood boiling? Or if people get you going on a certain subject that you just can't stop talking about it?

If you can't come up with an answer to this yourself, no worries, ask others who know you well, they may have a clearer idea than you even do.

2. What experiences have you had, both positive and negative, that have shaped who you are today?
3. List some activities that you already are involved with, or could easily engage in that cause you to feel like this is what you were put on earth to do.

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4. How can these activities be structured in such a way so that they benefit others?

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### Appendix II

We wanted to leave you with a few reminders of strategies that were embedded in this book. Maybe one of these could lead your next steps as you continue to pursue this calling of Abolitionist.

#### 5 Initiatives:

1. Suppress Regional Markets. Traffickers currently enjoy high profits with low risk of arrest. If law enforcement starts closing down operations, this equation would shift.
2. Changing Perception of Trafficking Victims.
3. Proper Identification of Criminal. Decriminalizing the children who are forced into prostitution. That safe houses be established instead of juvenile detention centers.
4. Focus on state anti-slavery laws. The problem is too big for Federal law enforcement alone. Need strong anti-trafficking legislation at every level of government.
5. Track supply chain of consumer products. As use of slave labor is revealed, companies can be held to account.

Consider these 5 initiatives and how you may be able to be involved in them.

If you find your profession or “skill” on the list that follows, then consider yourself “needed” in the Abolitionist Movement:

Lawyers  
Business Entrepreneurs  
Researchers  
Policy Writers  
Health Care Workers  
Mental Health Workers  
Spiritual Directors/Pastors  
Construction Workers  
Teachers  
Employers  
Women  
Men

And this list is definitely not exhaustive. The point is, you are needed.