

The Family Heritage Series

A weekly discussion of Americanist truths and traditions for those "heirs of all the ages" who will have to preserve that most important inheritance of all — freedom. Produced by the Movement To Restore Decency.



Volume II

Lesson Sixty-Three

Slavery — Old and New

LESSON IDEA

To illustrate, as we begin a series of lessons on the War Between the States, that slavery was — and is — common throughout the world; and that Americans today should feel no special guilt because of conditions that existed in this country more than one hundred years ago.

PREPARATION

Read "During The Week" and be familiar enough with the material in the books mentioned to give your family some idea of the nature and extent of the Communist slave labor system. And, if possible, consult some current periodicals for information on the size of the executive branch of the federal government, as well as the scope and power of some of its agencies.

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ON A MILD October day in 1492 the first black man to enter the Western Hemisphere set foot on an island in the West Indies. He was with the crew of Columbus — and a slave. The natives on the island gazed in wonder — not because they were shocked that Columbus had slaves, but because they had never seen a white man before. Or a black man, for that matter. But one thing that probably did *not* surprise them was the existence of slaves. Enslaving a defeated enemy was as common at that time in the New World as it had been in the Old. In fact, the institution of slavery is older than recorded history and at various times has held black, white, yellow, and red men in its grip.

So there was nothing unique about slavery in America — expect for the idea today that Americans, especially white Americans, should feel guilty about slavery in the United States during the

first one hundred years of our existence. The opinion molders, politicians, and teachers who peddle this idea seem confident that no one will know enough history to dispute their charges. But before any of us are persuaded to carry heavy stones of guilt in our pockets for a condition that existed in this country more than one hundred years ago, let's consult some history lessons on this very delicate subject.

And first let's turn to our Bibles for an account of slavery many thousands of years ago. Do you remember the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob, with the coat of many colors? Do you recall what his brothers did to him because of their jealousy and hatred? [*If this story is not familiar to your family, read Chapter 37 of Genesis aloud. If someone does know the story, have him tell it to the others.*] Yes, Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they sold him as a slave, for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph, of course, was not a black man; nor were his sellers or his new masters.

The Bible tells many stories of slavery. It was common practice in ancient times for the victors of war to make slaves of those whom they defeated, regardless of race or creed. Remember the slave markets of Rome, and the stories of galleys manned and powered by slaves in leg irons?

Did you know that the first Negroes from Africa were sold in Europe five hundred years before Columbus came to the New World? Or that long before the first English colony was established in America, thousands of Negro slaves were owned by wealthy families in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies? That King Philip of Spain and Queen

