

# Milk & Honey

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*Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ*

## Jesus said...

Paul Young (Wales)

*Jesus said, "You call me Master...and you say well; for so I am. (John 13:13)*

It is interesting to think that the Lord looked at His disciples and regarded Himself as their Master. Yet that is the truth of the New Testament. Indeed all true followers of Christ must acknowledge Him as their Master. He must be the one who truly controls and exercises complete authority over the lives of His people. There are five different Greek words that are translated as "Master."

1. This first concept is one of Owner and that was a well-known idea in first century Roman society. There were millions of slaves in the Roman Empire and they could be purchased on the slave market. When the price was paid for such people they became the exclusive property of the purchaser. He was the Master and they were the slaves. He had absolute rights over the slave and a slave had no recourse to Law. In a similar way the Lord Jesus is our Owner because He paid for us on the cross of Calvary and therefore like the slaves in Roman times He has total control over our decision making. Our will is to do His will. So as owner He controls my decision-making.

2. The second idea is that of Teacher and again it was a well-known concept in first century Roman society. The teacher was highly respected by his pupils and they sat at his feet and were educated. He filled their minds with knowledge and enlightenment. In a similar way we must sit at the feet of the Lord Jesus and be educated by Him in spiritual truth. We must allow Him to control the thoughts of our mind. The Bible is His textbook and as we read it then its truth can penetrate our thinking. So as teacher He controls my mind.

3. The third aspect is one of being a Guide. This was someone who conducted people through unfamiliar terrain. The guide showed people the right route and enabled them to arrive safely at their destination. In a similar way Christ is our guide to Heaven. He wants to direct us and lead us safely through the dangers and pitfalls of life, so that we can ultimately know the warm welcome of the Father in our Heavenly Home. So as guide He controls where I go.

4. The fourth word means High Commander and carries the idea of a military general who gives orders to his troops and expects them to fulfill his commands. They must act with absolute obedience to his words. So it is with the Lord as He directs our lives. Every Christian needs to instantly and fully obey Him in order to receive the rich blessing that walking in His will produces. So as High Commander He controls what I do.

5. The fifth idea is that of Sovereign and is the concept of total control and total respect. So as Sovereign He controls what I am and what I will become.

It may be that we want to be in charge of our own lives, but to know the full blessing of God we have to let go and allow our Saviour to be our Lord and Master. \*

## Settled Peace

C.H. Mackintosh

A dead and risen Christ is the groundwork of salvation. "He who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). To see Jesus by the eye of faith nailed to the cross, and seated on the throne, must give solid peace to the conscience, and perfect liberty to the heart. We can look into the tomb and see it empty; we can look up to the throne and see it occupied and go on our way rejoicing. The Lord Jesus settled everything on the cross on behalf of His people; and the proof of this settlement is that He is now at the right hand of God. A risen Christ is the eternal proof of an accomplished redemption; and if redemption is an accomplished fact, the believer's peace is a settled reality. We did not make peace, and never could make it; indeed, any effort on our part could only tend more fully to manifest us as peace-breakers. But Christ, having made peace by the blood of His cross, has taken His seat on high, triumphant over every enemy. By Him God preaches peace. The word of the gospel conveys this peace; and the soul that believes the gospel has peace - settled peace before God; for Christ is His peace. (See Acts 10:36; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14; Col. 1:20.) In this way God has not only satisfied His own claims, but in so doing He has found a divinely righteous way through which His boundless affection may flow down to the guiltiest of Adam's guilty progeny. \*