



## Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

### Title of Sermon: Called, Loved, and Guarded Slaves

Passage: Jude 1 NIV

#### Intro -

1. What kinds of images would you use to describe the way you think Christians really are?
2. What kinds of images would you use to describe what Christians should be?
3. How does the Bible describe Christians? What kinds of images does it use?

#### Sermon Points -

1. Slaves of Jesus Christ
  - a. How do you feel about the idea that Jude compares his relationship with Jesus as a slave to his master? What makes us cringe a little about this image?
  - b. How does the description of a person becoming a slave voluntarily in Exodus 21:1-6 differ from how we usually understand slavery? What's different regarding the way we picture the character of a master of slaves to the way the bond-servant pictures the character of his or her master?
  - c. How does viewing yourself as a bond-servant or slave affect the way you respond to God's commands, even when you don't know exactly where obedience to those commands will lead you?
2. The Called Ones
  - a. In what sense is every person in the world "called by God"? In what sense are only Christians "called by God"?
  - b. In Acts 16:11-15, the conversion of Lydia is described. Why does Luke say that the "Lord opened her heart that she might believe"? How does this description affect the way you understand how people come to saving faith?
  - c. How should the knowledge that God calls people to faith affect the way we share our faith and pray for those who don't know Jesus yet?
3. Loved in God
  - a. Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with the idea that God has an intimate love for you? Do you find this easy or difficult to believe? Why or why not?
  - b. Why do we so often not feel loved by God in the way Zephaniah 3:17 describes it? How can we feel it more?



4. Guarded for Jesus Christ

- a. Do you think that those who begin following Jesus, but don't finish their lives by remaining faithful to the historic doctrine of the Church are actually saved? Why or why not?
- b. Are you ever worried that you won't be able to finish your life remaining faithful to Jesus? Why or why not?
- c. What are the means God uses to "keep" us in the faith? What happens when we don't use them?

**Wrap Up and Prayer**

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

**Benediction** - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

*"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."*