**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 14, 2020**

Good afternoon!

That will leave a mark! Have you ever heard someone say that? As a teenager, I remember doing a number of foolish things, but one that may have topped the list was my decision to try to scale the wall of a three-story building from a back alley all alone. I thought that If I could just get to the first ledge that I could shimmy up the metal poles that were attached to the wall and then go on up to the roof. Fun huh? So, in order to get to that first ledge, I pulled an old abandon washing machine up to climb on. Now, still needing something more to get me to that first ledge I located an old metal damaged shopping cart and placed it on top of the old washing machine. As I claimed on top of the shopping cart, I could jump to the ledge that was now within reach. As I leaped up off of the shopping cart, I grabbed hold of the ledge. However, there was broken glass on the ledge. When I felt the pain of the glass in my fingers I had to let go. The shopping cart had fallen off of the washing machine when I jumped up so when I came down, the drop was not only far but my leg caught the gagged edge of the damaged cart and cut my leg open creating a 14-inch long gash. I was now bleeding profusely! I looked at it and thought, I could have been killed and then said out loud, “That will leave a mark.” The scare it created still remains today on my left leg as a reminder of two things. Body piercing almost took my life. But the body piercing of Jesus saved my life!

My wife Margie is currently doing a study of the book of Jude. The first verse begins with “Jude a bondservant of Jesus Christ...” She shared with me some of the concepts behind the connection between a bondservant and the piercing of an ear.

The bible speaks about bond-servants. Jude is just one example. A slave and a bond-slave are two different things. A slave is a servant without choice. A bondservant was a servant by choice. In the old testament, we see two places that speak of the process of moving from a slave to a bond-slave. This process included being pierced by steel through the earlobe of the slave to create a new status.

• “If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free. “But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free, then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.” Exodus 21:2-6

• “But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, then take an awl and push it through his earlobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your female servant.” Deuteronomy 15:16-17

Why Piercing? The slave for the reason of love wished to serve his master voluntarily. He would be taken to a doorframe. Then a sharp metal instrument would be used to pierce or bore a hole through the skin of the earlobe, marking the flesh permanently. This would signify the slave’s now voluntary lifelong commitment to his master. The slave now chooses to stay and serve out of love.

Why a door? A door is a passageway; a portal. It presents an opportunity to move from one environment to another. The slave is now going through the door of slavery to becoming a bond-slave. This is a transition point!

Why ears? We find that part of the process of the priests being consecrated before God included the putting of blood on the earlobe of priests as a sign of their consecration, and commitment. Leviticus 8:14 says “Moses slaughters a ram and took some of its blood and put it on the right lobe of Aaron’s ear...”

Why do you follow Jesus? Is it because you feel like you have to or because you choose to? Is it because you were raised to do so or because you chose to be a disciple? The difference of your faithfulness when times get tough will be whether you have a mindset of a slave or a bond-slave. How do you see your marks for the master? As a sign of hardship that you have to bear or a sign of honor and ownership that you choose to bear?

There is a song that is sung these days called “Pierce My Ear” by Michael D’Elia and others as well. Check it out! I’ll bet it leaves a mark on your heart!

In His service,

Mike