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503 Reading the New Testament
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A slave is a person who is bound by others and forced to work without freedom. Slavery was a social structure in the Roman empire in the first century. Slaves played numerous roles in various places, serving in households, agriculture, mines, the military, manufacturing, etc. They consisted of multiple ages, sex, and ethnicities, and also played an essential economic role in ancient times.

Slaves used to be prisoners of war and sold in Rome. Selling prisoners of war rather than killing them on the battlefield gave them much benefit, so the number of slaves swelled at a tremendous rate as the empire expanded. Children abandoned on the streets were also reduced to slaves. Parents sold their children to debtors when they could not pay them back, and sometimes they naturally became servants of debtors themselves.

Slaves were the owner's property, and the owner had the right to kill them. Violence and sexual assault happened openly. If slaves failed to save from the master's assassination, all the slaves who worked for him were killed.

Slaves were used to running away in search of freedom. And in that case, those who hid the slaves were punished. There were experts to catch slaves, and if they found, they took a reward. The captured slaves were severely punished. The F-letter mark of the fugitive was carved on the forehead with an iron. They were usually killed and crucified or buried in the water.