

**STRANGER STORIES:**  
**A Slave Owner, a Swindler, and a Request**

陌生人故事:

一個奴隸主、一個騙子和一個請求

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**A. THE PEOPLE INVOLVED**

相關的人

1. Onesimus was a **SLAVE**.  
阿尼西母是一個奴隸。
2. Philemon was a **SLAVE OWNER**.  
腓利門是一個奴隸主。
3. Paul was a missionary who was in **PRISON**.  
保羅是一名在監獄中的傳教士。

**B. LIFE IN THE FIRST CENTURY**

第一世紀的生活

1. A **LOWER-CLASS** citizen needed to build a relationship with a **HIGHER-CLASS** citizen.  
低層公民要與較上層的公民建立關係。
2. **SLAVERY** was embedded into the fabric of the culture but was not based on **RACE** or **ETHNICITY**.  
奴隸制融入了文化結構，但並非基於種族或民族。

**C. THE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

推薦信

*"1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus... To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker... 4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus... 8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— 10 that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. 12 I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. 13 I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would*

*not seem forced but would be voluntary. 15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— 16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. 17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self... 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.” (Philemon 1, 4-5, 8-19, 21)*

1 為基督耶穌被囚的保羅..... 寫信給我們所親愛的同工.....4 我禱告的時候提到你，常為你感謝我的神。因聽說你的愛心，並你向主耶穌和眾聖徒的信心。8 我雖然靠著基督能放膽吩咐你合宜的事。9 然而像我這有年紀的保羅，現在又是為基督耶穌被囚的，寧可憑著愛心求你。10 就是為我在捆鎖中所生的兒子阿尼西母求你。11 他從前與你沒有益處，但如今與你我都有益處。12 我現在打發他親自回你那裡去，他是我心上的人。13 我本來有意將他留下，在我為福音所受的捆鎖中替你伺候我。14 但不知道你的意思，我就不願意這樣行，叫你的善行不是出於勉強，乃是出於甘心。15 他暫時離開你，或者是叫你永遠得著他。16 不再是奴僕，乃是高過奴僕，是親愛的兄弟，在我實在是如此，何況在你呢。這也不拘是按肉體說，是按主說，17 你若以我為同伴，就收納他，如同收納我一樣。18 他若虧負你，或欠你甚麼，都歸在我的賬上。19 我必償還，這是我保羅親筆寫的。我並不用對你說，連你自己也是虧欠於我。.....21 我寫信給你、深信你必順服，知道你所要行的，必過於我所說的。(腓利門書 1, 4-5, 8-19, 21)

#### **D. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS STRANGE STORY?**

我們可以從這個奇怪的故事中學到什麼？

##### **1) The VALUE of a HUMAN LIFE.**

人類生命的價值。

##### **2) The DEMAND of FORGIVENESS.**

對寬恕的需求。

###### **a. FORGIVENESS DEMANDS HUMILITY.**

寬恕需要謙遜。

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.*

*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13)*

倘若這人與那人有嫌隙，總要彼此包容，彼此饒恕。主怎樣饒恕了你們，你們也要怎樣饒恕人。(歌羅西書 3:13)

##### **3) The UNFAIRNESS of REDEMPTION.**

救贖的不公平。

**Today's Big Idea 今日主旨...**

**JESUS TRANSFORMS HEARTS.**

耶穌改變人心。

**Discussion Questions 問題討論:**

1. How does this strange story reconcile with your thoughts on slavery?  
這個奇怪的故事如何與你對奴隸制的看法相協調？
2. Why is context so important in reading the Bible?  
為什麼前文後理對閱讀聖經如此重要？
3. How does the value of human life change your perspective on yourself? Why or why not?  
生命的價值如何改變你對自己的看法？為什麼或者為什麼不？
4. What are some areas of unforgiveness you need to deal with in your life?  
你的生命中有哪些不能饒恕的方面需要處理？
5. What other ways does Christianity transcend culture?  
基督教還有哪些方面超越文化？