

UPDATE ON MARIAH: Her blood pressure is unstable at the present. She has lost over 20 lbs of fluid, however. She's in good hands. God is watching over Mariah and you are reminding Him of her needs. Thank you, brethren. UPDATE ON TATIANNA: Her improvement is so good that she has been placed on the "To Receive a Heart" list. Now, that's a miracle. We give the Lord of Life praise for His remarkable work. Now, let's pray for her family.

GOODNEWS LETTER

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MASTER

There may confusion over the way our English word, **MASTER**, is used in the Bible. But, we must be studious and look up the word and discover that **MASTER** has two basic meanings in the Greek, the official language of the Book.

One definition given for **MASTER** comes from the Greek word, **Kurios**. It means "**Lord, Sir; Master.**" But, in the Bible, **Master** also is translated from **DIDASKALOS**; which means, "**A Teacher.**"

So, a little knowledge of the **Koine Greek** language is valuable; especially, if we study from the **King James Version**. More than once, the **KJV** will use the same English word to translate two or more different "Greek" words. This may present a bit of confusion to God's real meaning.

Sometimes, it's no big deal. But, when it comes to the true meaning of the word "**MASTER**," it can be vitally important to one's understanding of how to correctly serve the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thus, if the Bible student is to learn the truth and have it harmonize - "**being not a forgetful hearing**" (Ja. 1:25) - "**Perfect, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed**" (2nd Tim 2:15), he must know something about the original Greek meaning.

In the **Koine Greek**, **Kurios** carries a stronger meaning than **Didaskalos**; according to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon. There is an "A" definition for Master and, there is a "B" definition for Master.

The "**A**" meaning, **Kurios**, Thayer says, "*Having power or authority; He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding;*" pg. 365.

Didaskalos, the "**B**" meaning of Master, carries a an honorable but, a lesser meaning. 1). "*of one who is fitted to teach;* 2). "*of the teachers of the Jewish*

religion; 3. of those who by their great power as teachers drew crowds about them;" i.e., John, the Baptist."

Also, Thayer offers us this interesting meaning of **Didaskalos**. "*of those who in the religious assemblies of Christians undertook the work of teaching, with the special assistance of the Holy Spirit: I Co. XII. 28; Eph. IV 11; Acts XIII. I, cf. Jas. III. 1.*"

Our main purpose for writing the GoodNews Letter is to "rightly divide the word of God" (2nd Tim. 2:15); to explain meaning within God's Word. We don't know it all, but we have picked up some truths over the fifty (50) years we've been in His business.

And so, let's see the difference that a correct understanding can make when the meaning of **MASTER** is defined within a particular framework of the Bible.

First off, one cannot help but notice that some addressed Jesus as **MASTER** but failed to follow His words. The rich, young ruler of Matthew 23:16 is such a person.

"**Good Master** (Didakalos) **what good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?**" After Jesus cited a portion of the Ten Commandments, the rich young man saith unto Him, "**All these things have I kept from the youth up: what lack I yet?**"

Jesus is about to present true salvation to the young man; which, is not in keeping Laws. "**If thou wilt be perfect** (complete), **go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me,**" V 21.

Salvation is obeying and honoring the Master. And, in this case, the word for Master is **Kurios**, meaning, "**Lord, sir and Master.**" The rich, young man obviously looked to Jesus with a **student-teacher** approach; not with the eyes of sinner-Savior relationship.

Even after meeting Jesus face to face, the young man still thought the way to God was in keeping and doing what the Master (**didaskalos**) said; rather, than trusting in the Master (**kurios**), personally, giving Jesus full control as Lord over his life. (This understanding is essential if one is to inherit the Kingdom of heaven, See Mt 7:21.)

As we further look at the young man, we see that he was a Jew. He had **first rights to salvation**. Perhaps, the man wanted a **feel-good** response from Jesus; one that comes from following teachings of a Master-teacher, instead of obeying the Master-Person of Jesus. His need just wasn't that desperate.

A few chapters earlier, a non-Jew, a Canaanite woman, had a different view of who Jesus was. Notice the appellatives she approached Jesus with: "**Have mercy on me, O Lord** (kurios), **thou son of David,**" Matthew 15:22. The rich young man titled Jesus as: Teacher, only (Oh, yes! And good, too).

She was desperate. Her daughter had a devil. Jesus, at first, ignored her request. He even explained to the disciples that: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel," V 24.

But then, "She came and worshipped Him," V 25. **She WORSHIPPED Him**. And, that moved Jesus to give - what seems to be a qualifying response. "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs, V 26.

The woman was at her end. She, no longer, sought good works (as certainly, she did). She didn't even want the loins share of blessing. "Truth, Lord (Kurios): yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from the Masters' (Kurios) table," Matthew 15:27.

Unlike the rich, young ruler, this woman had faith in the Master (Kurios). Without being in the promised line or, doing any work, at all, she knew her request lie in the Person of this Jesus, the Lord (Kurios) of Lords.

Jesus was moved at her faith (in Him) and stated, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even a thou wilt," V 28. Her plea was met! Her daughter was made whole from that very hour (V 28).

Christians must get the order correct. It's Jesus, then it's doing was He said. But, it isn't the doing that gets things done, it's faith in the One that said it. Is your hope built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, His righteousness? When the church bell rings in your heart, which Master are you responding to?