

## Assignment 6.1 The historical – cultural context, Veronica Loco

### Ubiquitous institution in Greco – Roman world.

- impacting both society's economic and social structure

~ SLAVERY~

- Ubiquitous Widespread institution from households, economics
- Diverse populations of enslaved individuals, prisoners of war, debts and those born into slavery
- They were in the city, countryside household, business and ownership.
- Slave trade was lightly taxed and regulated.
- slave as a state that is recognized by the law and which is someone subjected to the dominion of another contrary to nature.
- All born free that is the natural law
- Slavery universal practice – nations individuals through out their own civil practice pertaining slaves.
- Victor right to enslave the defeated population
- All slaves and their family were the property of their owners they could sell or rent them out at any time
- Their lives were harsh, slaves were often whipped, branded or cruelly mistreated. Their owners could also kill them for any reason, and they would not face any punishment
- Greco- roman slavery differs from other classical civilization, they were more in number.
- Greco- roman slaves relied on slaves more than any other civilizations
- Slaves participated in a great number of occupations
- Greeks believed that slaves were seen as property, their values were tied on their physical capacity for labor. “They were living tools” that’s what Aristotle said
- No rights to person
- Slaves were present in an ancient Rome and castration and sexual assault more especially Africans, Greeks and non-Greeks
- Skilled and unskilled entertainers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> century debt cancellation and contractual slavery to escape poverty
- Early Christian church gave slaves equal place within the religion
- Jewish and Christian community who at times struggled to reconcile their practice within their believes
- Jewish sect, absence therapeutant articulated anti slavey principals
- The roman slavery more benign more open system than the Greeks

## **Philemon Background**

- Paul wrote a letter to his Christian brother Philemon about his slave Onesimus
- the letter was addressed to Philemon, Apphia that is Philemon's wife and Archippus that is Philemon's son and a leader of the church in Colosse.
- Philemon was a Christian and a brother in Christ, who ran a house church at his home which means he was likely very wealthy.
- Onesimus was Philemon's slave who evidently stole from Philemon and ran away
- this type of behavior could be grounds of execution or if captured and returned to master could be branded with a hot iron on his forehead with a letter F for fugitive
- running away from a master as a slave was a serious offense that the Greco roman culture would not take it lightly to avoid a slave revolt
- Onesimus fled to Rome and encountered Paul and became a Christian
- Divine appointment of meeting Paul who was very close to Philemon which was Onesimus's master.
- when a Onesimus met Paul and became a Christian was a pivotal twist in his relationship with Philemon.
- Paul's letter on behalf of Onesimus's was an appeal for Philemon to forgive his slave
- Paul even stated that he would take any of Onesimus's debt as his own. a parallel to what Jesus Christ did for Paul and for us.
- Jesus paid for the sins of the world by dying on the cross, and like Paul our lives were in debt for Jesus forever
- Greco roman culture was a blend of Greco roman culture, languages, religions. Both were pagan and believed in polytheisms
- when roman conquered Greece, they adopted language and philosophy. Instead of abolishing Pagan gods, they aligned their roman names to the same God

**Greek** Roman

**Zeus** Jupiter    **Poseidon** Neptune

**Athena** Minerva    **Hermes** mercury

**Aphrodite** Venus    **Ares** mars

**Hera** Juno

