

**Frederick Douglass, Chapters 17-19:**  
**The Plot to be Free**

*"The fear of the wicked will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted." – Proverbs 10:24*

1. When Douglass returned to the Covey farm, how was he received?

Mr. Covey was not home and Douglass went to work in the fields

Mr. and Mrs. Covey met him on their way to church and told him to rest until they returned

Mr. Covey surprised Douglass before he even got to the house and tried to tie him up

2. Douglass wrote that he was no longer able to pray to God for deliverance "partly from my neglect of the means of grace and partly from the sham religion which everywhere prevailed.." Read Proverbs 10:27-30. What can you learn from these verses that might help you continue to pray even when faced with the kind of unjust situations and "sham religion" Douglass encountered? Answer in 3-5 sentences.

3. What did Sandy tell Douglass would provide protection for him from Mr. Covey?

How did Douglass respond to Sandy's suggestion?

Read Proverbs 9:7-12. How would you have responded to Sandy's suggestion based on these verses?

4. Douglass describes his "battle" with Mr. Covey as the outworking of his pledge to "stand up for my own defense." He also explains that he tried to be "strictly on the defensive."

Read Proverbs 10:12-13. Was Douglass devoid of understanding?

Read Proverbs 10:17. Was Douglass refusing correction by not allowing Mr. Covey to beat him?

Was Douglass justified in fighting Mr. Covey and Hughes?

Would your answer be different if Douglass had not been a slave?

5. Douglass described his fight with Mr. Covey as:

The turning-point in his life as a slave

What made him feel that he was no longer a servile coward

What kept him from being beaten as a slave ever again

All of the above

6. How old was Douglass when he moved to Mr. Freeland's farm?

7. Read Proverbs 9:13-18. Draw three parallels between how the foolish woman engages with the simple and how Douglass described slaveholders using the Christmas and New Year holidays to keep slaves in subjection.

1)

2)

3)

8. Read Proverbs 10:21. Name three ways that Douglass "fed many" while he was at the Freeland farm:

1)

2)

3)

9. Give the definitions of the following three words Douglass uses in his narrative (use a dictionary and pay attention to the context in which the word is used):

1) Supple:

2) Desideratum:

3) Benumbed:

10. Read Proverbs 9:7-12; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22; 4:1; I Tim. 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; I Peter 2:18-20; and Philemon 10-22. Also read Exodus 21:16; Judges 6:1-16; Matthew 10:22-23; Mark 12:17; Acts 5:29; and Romans 13:1-7. Based on your study of these verses and using details from Douglass' description of his time at the Freeland plantation, answer the following question in at least 3-5 sentences.

“From a Biblical perspective, was it right for Frederick Douglass and his four friends to plot to escape from slavery?”