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Sunday School Times

# The Cost Of Discipleship Is High

***Stuff For Today***

• Bob the Square!

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• The Pineapple Story

 Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

***Luke 14:33***

***So, likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.***

 Jesus, as he taught his disciples, spoke of the cost of being His disciple. This cost is not necessarily restricted to finances, but comprises everything we call our own. That includes our personal possessions to be sure, but it also encompasses our time, reputation, character…all that we have been given by God.

 As Christians, we are referred to as being His possession. He bought us with His own blood, and we are His servants. Servants, or slaves, do not have rights as a free man, but are answerable to their owner completely.

Let us begin this discussion with one very important caveat. Throw out of your mind any preconceived ideas about the word slavery and its ties to our US history. That is not the slavery we are talking about here. God gives us an excellent picture of what He considers appropriate in regards to a Biblical view of slavery.

Immediately, we would do well to begin thinking more along the lines of an employer and employee relationship. The Mosaic Law promoted the idea that a slave was to be treated almost like family, given many rights and privileges and treated extremely well and paid generously. In fact, the concept was so positively ordered, that a slave could voluntarily commit himself to the condition of slavery for the remainder of his life! A slave by choice—what an amazing New Testament idea!

 We are called to be in this world, but not a part of it. You are growing up in a society that is increasingly guided by possessions and money and position in life.

 To be sure, many of the heroes of the Bible were quite wealthy. And yet Jesus warned often of the tremendous draw that money has upon us. Can a Christian be wealthy? Yes, but it is NOT easy.

 Our culture seems to be built upon the love of money and possessions. Consider how many commercials accompany every TV show today. This writer has counted as many as a dozen during a single commercial break. Fifty years ago that number would have been one or two.

 When calculating what is of value to you personally, do not forget the non-monetary things. Friends, reputation, and health are examples of areas we tend to take for granted. Often, we think that we have the right to have all of these, when in reality, Jesus said these things are gifts from Him. We possess them at His leisure and will.

When we commit our lives to Christ, we relinquish all of our rights. We must begin to look at life through His eyes and realize the larger picture that is in play. Our personal freedoms and priorities must be set aside and His allowed to take precedence. God’s plan is not required to make us feel comfortable or at ease. But He did promise that it would be for our best interest.

**Events of Interest Coming Soon**

October 31-Halloween (My costume this year will be a t-shirt covered in Sunday school nametags from other people. I’m going as an identity thief.)

November4-The end of Daylight Savings Time. (BTW, How much daylight did you save this year?)

November 11-Our annual Sunday school cookout and play time. Starts right after church.

(Continued on page 2)

**Pineapples:**

**Interesting and Fun Facts**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. Christopher Columbus stumbled across pineapples in 1493 on the island of Guadalupe. He brought some samples back to Queen Isabella, who loved them. Many others in Europe felt the same way.

 2. Pineapple is technically not a single fruit, but a *sorosis—*a hundred or more individual fruits that grow together.

 3. You will rarely see fresh pineapple in Jell-O. The raw fruit contains a chemical called bromelain which keeps the gelatin from congealing.

 4. If you twist the leafy top off of a store bought pineapple, let it dry for 2-3 days, and then plant it, it will very likely grow.

5. See, I told you this would be fun!