



Mustard Seed Children's Ministry

Sunday School Lesson for June 25, 2006

Released on June 21, 2006

"Servants of Christ"

GOLDEN TEXT-"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1).

Scripture Lesson (1 Corinthians 4:1-13):

1 COR. 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apol'los for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are the off-scouring of all things unto this day.*

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand that the quality of dependability is important to God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Paul and Apollos were God's servants who ministered to the church at Corinth.
2. Dependability is an essential qualification for someone who has the responsibility of handling what another assigns him to do.
3. God's children are servants of Jesus; He wants us to be dependable servants.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, make a sign reading "Depend."

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a make-shift scroll. You will also need an envelope, pictures of Joseph and the pharaoh, and a sign reading "Dependable."

For Helping to Remember, for each student print "Dependable" on a 1-by-5-inch strip of blue construction paper. The children will need a white paper plate, crayons, and glue.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Dan's mother had a worried look on her face. "Where is Mary?" she asked again. A friend was coming to take her to a church meeting.

"She will be coming," Dan's father answered. "Mary is the kind of person you can always depend on."

What did Dan's father mean by "depend"? (Show "Depend.")

If you do not know, you soon will, because you are going to hear that word over and over in our Bible lesson today.

TELLING THE LESSON

Paul wrote a long letter to his church friends at Corinth. You know his letter did not look like this. (Show envelope.) It looked more like this. (Show scroll.) The readers had to unroll it. (Unroll scroll a bit.)

They first read what Paul said about getting along together. (Unroll a little more.) Then they read what he said about himself and Apollos. Both were Jesus' servants. They did things for Him. (Continue unrolling.) Then he said, "Apollos and I are ministers of Christ." That meant they were a special kind of servant.

Today, the person who does the preaching every Sunday at church is sometimes called a minister, but Paul was not talking only about that kind of minister. He was talking about somebody who has been given an important job to do for somebody else. It may take a long time to do the job, but if this kind of minister is a good one, a good servant, he does it. What he does is good for someone else.

Joseph was that kind of minister (cf. Gen. 41:39-57). Joseph worked for the king. (Show Joseph and the pharaoh.) You see, Joseph had told the king that a time was coming when none of the gardens would grow. The king knew Joseph was wise; so he put Joseph in charge of the country to do what the people needed.

First, Joseph made some good rules. He collected food from all over the country and stored it away so that there would be plenty to eat when the gardens did not grow. The king did not do this himself, but it was what the king wanted done. He told Joseph to do what was needed, and Joseph did.

Joseph was the king's minister, his servant. He was dependable. (Show "Dependable.")

The king did not need to worry about the right thing getting done. Joseph would do it. He was dependable. The king did not need to worry that Joseph would quit before he finished his work. Joseph was the kind of minister who would do just what he was told to do. He could count on Joseph. He was dependable.

Paul and Apollos were Jesus' ministers, His servants. God had given them the important job of taking the good news of Jesus to others. They had the important job of teaching Jesus' people how He wanted them to live. God did not do this Himself. It was what God wanted done, and He told Paul and Apollos to do it. They were God's ministers.

Do you know what Paul said about being a minister? (Pretend to read from scroll.) He said every minister must be-strong? No. Rich? No. A good singer? No. A fast runner? No. Paul said that to be anybody's minister, a person has to be dependable.

The person a servant-minister works for does not want to worry that his work will not get done. He does not want to worry that his minister will just quit. He does not want to worry that his minister will go off and do something else. He wants his work done; so he wants a minister he can depend on. I think Paul and Apollos were the dependable kind.

The Bible says all God's children are Jesus' servants (Col. 3:24). We all are to do what He says. Paul told his church friends something else. (Unroll scroll further.) Do you remember how he told them not to think Paul was better than Apollos or that Apollos was better than Paul? Now he said, "Do not think you are better than anyone else, either."

Just because a person can do something well does not mean he is better than somebody who cannot do it. If someone can do a thing well, it is because God made that person that way.

Sometimes God's servants have trouble even though they are dependable. Paul was a dependable minister of Jesus, but that did not mean things were always easy for him. Sometimes he was hungry and thirsty. He did not have fine clothes. He did not have a home to go to. Some people said bad things about him.

Paul did not let hard things stop him, though. He was trying to please God, not people. He just did what Jesus told him to do. He was Jesus' servant.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Can you be dependable? Can Jesus count on you to do what He tells you in His Book? Can He count on you to say no when your friends want you to do something that is not right? Can your parents count on you to always obey them? Can your teacher count on you to do your own work? Can others depend on you to do what you say you will do? Ask Jesus to make you dependable.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children glue their "Dependable" slips as far down on their paper plates as possible. Above the slip they will print "I please Jesus when I am." If time permits, have them decorate their plates.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God" (I Corinthians 4:1).

Paul wrote these words. He wanted people to know that both he and Apollos were doing the work Jesus had given them to do. God had shown them that Jesus died and rose again so that we can have our sins forgiven. They were taking that news here and there, just as God wanted them to.

There were times that people did not want to hear what Paul and his friends said about Jesus. They put Paul and his companions in prison. Sometimes they were whipped. One time Paul was left for dead after people hit him with stones. Through it all God took care of Paul, and he continued to tell others about Jesus. Paul did not give up preaching the gospel.

Puzzle Activity:

Servants of Christ

E L B A D N E P E D J T R N I
L D D A C E Y X S P B U T A V
C H R I S T M O L Y E N D O X
O N K C S A J L T Y A K G G S
J Q Z G T U R D L M V D I Q E
K R Y Z N V B Y U G L B V G R
S E P W A D G F V S C X W F B
Y R F B V L J L D J R H B O G
O P E T R E J R U T U Y U V S
Y T F T E X A R V K G V A F F
I Q J V S W L W F U F P Y C E
M L O B E I E J X D E H V J H
I R K T C V N V A X L A R Q J
E R S M V E U I Z W J H M M O
A O P H U Y X E M W O L S G X

CHRIST
MINISTERS

DEPENDABLE
SERVANTS

JUDGE
STEWARDS

6 of 6 words were placed into the puzzle.

Servants of Christ Solution

E L B A D N E P E D J + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + U + + +
C H R I S T + + + + + D + +
+ + + + S + + + + + G +
+ + + + T + + + + + E
+ + + + N + + + + + + + + +
S + + + A + + + + S + + + + +
+ R + + V + + + D + + + + + +
+ + E + R + + R + + + + + + +
+ + + T E + A + + + + + + + +
+ + + + S W + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + E I + + + + + + + + +
+ + + T + + N + + + + + + + + +
+ + S + + + + I + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + M + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

CHRIST (1, 3, E)

DEPENDABLE (10, 1, W)

JUDGE (11, 1, SE)

MINISTERS (9, 15, NW)

SERVANTS (5, 11, N)

STEWARDS (3, 14, NE)