

PIERCE MY EAR

SCRIPTURE:

But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,' then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently (Exodus 21:5-6).

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) awl
- (1) nail

MAIN MESSAGE:

It is possible to obey God, but not be totally committed to Him. If we do not completely give ourselves to Him, then we are not truly honoring Him.

SONG: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

LESSON:

When we claim that we are God's servants and that we have given ourselves fully to Him, do we really mean it? In our Scripture reading, we see a male servant who was willing to have a big hole punched into his ear because he was completely willing to stay and serve his master, even when he had permission to leave and be a free man. The idea of wholly giving ourselves to God was illustrated very well by a preacher in Haiti with the following story.

A certain man wanted to sell a house for \$2,000, and another man desperately wanted to buy the house, but he only had \$1,000. The first man finally agreed to sell it to the second man for half of the asking price, but with one condition. The first man said that he wanted to retain possession of one nail in the house, a nail that was over the front door. The offer was accepted and the second man and his family moved into the house.

After several years, the original owner wanted the house back, but the man who bought it from him refused to sell it back to him. So the first owner went out and found the carcass of a dead dog that was lying in the road and hung it on the one nail over the front door that he still owned. In just a couple of days, the stench from the dead animal, and all of the insects that began to swarm inside the house became unbearable, and the man was forced to sell the house back to the original owner.

The Haitian preacher concluded his story with this lesson. "If we allow the devil to keep even one peg in our lives, he will eventually return and hang all of his rotting garbage on it, making it unfit for Christ to continue to live in us."

There may be many things that we do every day to be obedient to God, but the question is, have you given everything to Him, or does Satan still have a place in your heart that you haven't completely given up? It is easy to claim that we have what it takes to be fully committed to Christ, but when we are faced with something uncomfortable, are we truly willing to welcome God, with awl in hand, to pierce our ear?

PRAYER: We will not hold anything back from God and will be willing to fully and wholly serve Him.