Dear Center for,

This eLetter provides you with the latest version of Contemporary Comments.

In the right sidebar you can also secure the Sharing Scripture facilitator guides for 2nd quarter - April-June 2014 - on “Christ and the Law.”

These excellent discussion sheets are designed to enhance your Sabbath school class or small group. Suitable for photocopying, Sharing Scripture contains thought questions and exercises that transform ordinary study times into dynamic learning adventures.

Grace to you!
Center for Creative Ministry

Contemporary Comments

"The Cost of Discipleship"
March 29, 2014

Jesus spent three years teaching the disciples what they needed to know in order to take the Gospel to the world. Part of that teaching was preparing them for the cost of discipleship: “Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also” (John 15:20). And they were persecuted. According to Fox's Book of Martyrs, here's how some of the apostles died:1

- Stephen - stoned to death
- James the Great - beheaded
- Phillip - scourged, thrown into prison, and later crucified
- Matthew - slain with a halberd (combined spear and battle-ax)
- James the Less - beaten, stoned, then beaten on the head with a fuller's club
- Mark - dragged to pieces
- Peter - crucified upside down
- Thomas - thrust through with a spear
- Luke - hanged on an olive tree

The cost of discipleship doesn't seem that high for those of us who live in North America at this time. But a quick look around the world shows that the cost is high - very high - in other countries. Voice of the Martyrs, an international, interdenominational group whose mission is to seek out and help persecuted Christians around the globe shares these three examples, along with many others, on their website:2

- Last December, a pastor in India and his wife were attacked in their home in the middle of the night by a group of radicals. Using swords, knives, and sticks, they repeatedly stabbed the pastor, causing damage to his liver, kidneys, and other internal organs. He was taken to a local hospital in critical condition. The couple had been warned to stop their Christian activities, but had continued to minister to their church of about 100 members that meet in six different house churches.

- In January, two churches in Sri Lanka were attacked by an angry mob of 300. They stormed the churches, throwing stones at the buildings. Christian literature, music instruments, and other commodities were either set on fire or destroyed.

- And just last week, it was reported that a South Korean missionary and dozens of people that were accused of assisting him in North Korea, had been arrested. The missionaries, as well as their families, were sent to labor camps. Thirty-three have been sentenced to death.

At the end of a quarter on "Discipleship" we finish with this question: What is the cost of discipleship? Sometimes the cost is little; other times, it costs everything.

It's not always easy to be a disciple. Not everyone will want to hear your message. Not everyone will treat you with respect. Sometimes it may cost you time, money, and energy that you feel you don't have. And someday, it may even cost you your very life. But as this week's lesson so beautifully puts it, "In the end, we can be sure that whatever the cost of discipleship is, considering the ultimate reward, that cost is cheap enough."

~ nc

Additional resource: youtu.be

---

**Featured Items**

Order THIS WEEK'S PDF
*Sharing Scripture*
March 29, 2014 study guide for $1.49 [click here](#).

Order the entire PDF
2nd Quarter 2014
*Sharing Scripture* for $8.75 [click here](#).

To learn more about the *Sharing Scripture* mobile application [click here](#).

**eGraceNotes**

Free Devotional App
[View info](#)
About Us

Since 1988, the Center for Creative Ministry has been serving local church leaders and individuals around the world. Formerly known as the publishers of ABBA Newsletter and the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, we have now broadened our generational/ministry focus to include our children. The Center for Creative Ministry took on its new name on June 1, 1996.

The Center for Creative Ministry, formerly Baby Boomer Ministries, is a privately funded and managed para-church ministry fully recognized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. We are dedicated to supporting the local church in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting.