

'Just Like Little Johnny'

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Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Johnny, eat your vegetables!

Why is it that what kids usually want to eat is often very different than what their parents want them to eat?

Why is it that the peers that kids want to hang out with is so often different than those their parents want them to hang out with?

Why is it that the places the kids often want to go are so often very different than what their parents desire for them?

Do you parents really know what is best for your children or do they know better than you what is best for them?

'My parents just don't understand me; they never let me do what the other kids get to do; why can't I do what everybody else gets to do'?

Kids, No, the problem is, your parents DO understand you. They know all about that secret stuff you think they don't because they have been down the road you are on and your very nature is the one you inherited from them.

You need to trust your parents because by far, in most cases they really do know better than you what is best for you.

Why is it then that born again believers; saved people; most of you...act exactly the same way as the kids when it comes to doing what is best for you?

Does your heavenly Father really know better than you do what is best for you or not?
(wait for answer)

Should you trust your Heavenly Father because, unlike human parents, He always does know in every case and in every circumstance what really is best for you?

Yes, you know the answer... you should trust Him; completely.

You say you trust Him; and you actually do know clearly that He always knows best; yet many of you do exactly what the kids do when it comes to your response.

What the kids do is something we call 'passive-aggressive behavior'.

pas·sive-ag·gres·sive

adjective

denoting or pertaining to a personality type or behavior marked by the [expression](#) of negative emotions in passive, indirect ways, as through manipulation or noncooperation: a passive-aggressive employee who often misses deadlines.

Little Johnny says, 'Yes, Mom, I will do my homework first thing when I get home from school'; knowing full well that he is going straight to the video game and has no intention of doing otherwise.

Oh, Johnny intends to get to his homework, but he is going to do it on his terms, his way.

Sometimes he gets it done and sometimes he doesn't.

When he doesn't, it is because 'I was sick' or 'the teacher gave me more than I could do' or 'the dog ate my homework' or some other lame excuse that is nothing more than a lie.

We all know what Johnny's work ethic and grades and life pattern will become by putting what he wants ahead of proper priorities.

Many of you are doing exactly what you and Johnny did as kids:

If I read to you

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

There is not a believer in the building but what will and must agree that we ought to be faithful to worship on the Lord's Day.

Yet, some of you have no intention of obeying this. Oh, you will worship, but only on your terms, your way.

Some of you will be in your deer stand or in camp on Sunday morning, November 3rd, because gun season opens November 2nd.

You could go to your stand before daylight, hunt until about 8:30, go back to camp, change your shirt if you need to; drive in to town and attend worship at the local Baptist Church.

'Well, why do I need to? What will it hurt to miss one Sunday? That's just too much trouble'.

I could give you all the theological reasons why, just like you parents try to explain all the reasons to your kids why they should obey you; but the bottom line still is, 'Do you trust God that He knows what is best for you or not'?

I can read to you

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

I can read to you

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Every believer in this place will agree that, 'Yes, we ought to tithe and give generously to the Lord'. 'Yes, I know God will bless greatly if I do'. Yet, just like Johnny, some of you will agree, with absolutely no intention of tithing, let alone faithful giving.

Oh, you plan to do some giving; but just like Johnny, you will do it your way and on your terms.

We do what we want, the way we want and then God is supposed to be impressed because we showed up and gave at all.

You parents know what will happen when your kids start listening to their peers instead of you.

That wrong crowd you don't want your kids hanging out with is in the same role Satan and the world is playing in your own life.

Many is the young believer who was convinced to take this great new job...yes, you'll have to move, but you can find a new Church.

But somehow they never do. If God wanted you in a new Church, why did He put you in this one?

We all know that God knows what is best for us!

Why is it so hard to just trust Him completely?

Do you really believe that Jesus is asking too much of you? Do you really believe that following the Lord completely will cause you to miss out on something?

You are right, it will; it will cause you to miss out on loads of failures and consequences.

Most of us, especially the men, have been doing this passive-aggressive thing nearly all our lives. We have this childish rebellious streak in us that we did not grow out of.

Maybe it's time to realize that we are not kids any more. Paul said:

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

How do we put away this destructive, blessing- robbing, success-destroying, childish, passive-aggressive behavior?

For one:

I. Make up your mind once and for all to trust God completely.

A. Has not Jesus proven Himself to you?

1. Did He not prove to you His love when He took your place on the cross?

1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2. Has He not proven His faithfulness by forgiving and cleansing you and restoring your fellowship every time you confess your sins to Him?

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. Is He not continually proving his wisdom in our midst by answering our prayers and keeping all His promises to us?

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:...

B. You need to decide right here and now who you are going to trust.

1. You need to decide to trust the Lord completely.

2. Does He or does He not know what is best for you, better than you do? (wait for answer)

3. Your flesh says, 'Well, I don't know, I'm not sure'.

4. Your born-again spirit says, "Trust God".

5. What's it going to be?

II. Make up your mind once and for all to respond to God immediately.

A. Learn to say 'yes' to the Lord and mean it!

1. Let those songs we sing be the very message of our heart instead of just words up on the screen.

2. Purpose in your heart right here today that every time God instructs you in a new step to take, there will be no hesitation, no resistance.

3. Just do it!

B. Make one decision that takes away all the decision-making from now on.

1. You have heard us talk about instead of deciding 52 times a year that we will come to Church; we simply make one decision that if it is Sunday, we will be going to Church.

2. That simple singular decision-making doesn't just work for coming to Church, it works for all the other stuff, too.

3. I remember the day God spoke to me about tithing; I started tithing that week and never looked back; which also turned out to be the best financial decision I ever made.

4. I remember when I started reading my Bible every day.

5. I remember when I gave all the decisions over to one; "Yes Lord, whatever you say; no strings, no conditions, no passive-aggressive pretending".

III. Say 'yes' to the things that empower us to become what God intended us to be for His glory.

A. Here is what God wants you to become for His glory.

1. This prayer is what I'm asking God for you!

2. **Colossians 1:9-12** Paul writes:

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

A. That's not just our prayer, it's our job.

Verse 9 'that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;'

1. This is that 2nd part Jesus talked about when He said:

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, **and learn of me;**

2. You took on His yoke when you became a member of the Body; now learn!

3. The Church is commanded to teach you and you are commanded to learn.

4. **Colossians 1:9** says to learn 'all wisdom and spiritual understanding'...
5. **Matthew 28:20** says to learn 'all things whatsoever I have commanded you:'
6. **Ephesians 5:17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.
7. You cannot learn on this level just coming to the preaching on Sunday morning!
8. You need to be in Bible class; you need to be in a Home Team; you need to be in the Word yourself, every day!

B. Colossians 1:10 says *'That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,'*

1. Do you even know how that a saved sinner like us can walk worthy of the Lord?
2. Come to Bible class and we will teach you!

C. That you might be

Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power,

1. Not only do you need to learn how to recognize the enemy when you see him;
2. You must become strong enough to withstand him!
3. When Satan waves his carrot in front of most young believers, they often think it is a gift from the Lord: until it's too late.

In Conclusion:

What % of you were in Bible class this morning?

You may have grown up to be just like Little Johnny; but you don't have to stay just like Little Johnny.

Three things:

Make up your mind once and for all to trust God completely.

Make up your mind once and for all to respond to God immediately.

Say 'yes' to the things that empower us to become what God intended us to be for His glory.

Come learn what those things are!

Become a real student of God's Word!