

Is Jesus Asking Too Much? Or

'Just Like 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.

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 are 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 in nature 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 want me to stay away from da ta da ta da; other kids get to do it; why can't I do it?"

No, the problem is, your parents DO understand you. They know all about that secret stuff you think they don't know about, 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...often 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 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 should trust Him; completely.

You say you do trust Him; and you actually do know clearly that He always knows best; yet often you do 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.

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 some other lame excuse that is nothing more than just that.

We all know what Johnny's work ethic and grades and life pattern will become by putting what he wants ahead of his wise parents instructions .

Some of you are still 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, even though you will agree, some of you have no intention of obeying this. Oh, you will come to worship, but 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 into town and attend worship at the local Baptist Church.

But you will say, "Well, why do I need to? What will it hurt to miss a Sunday? That's 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 **Proverb 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. (And by the way, today’s message is NOT about the subject of giving.)

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?

Indeed it will; it will cause you to miss out on loads of failures and negative consequences.

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

You are not a kid any more. Paul said:

1Corinthians 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, and childish, passive-aggressive behavior?

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?

1Peter 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?

1John 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. Has he not proven his wisdom in our midst by answering our prayers and keeping all His promises to us?

2Peter 1:2-4

1 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 ought to decide right here and now who you are going to believe.

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 born again spirit says, "Trust God."
4. Your flesh says, "Well I don't know, I'm not sure."
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 content of our heart instead of merely words 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 or resistance.
3. Just do it!

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

1. You have heard us talking 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 every facet of God's will.
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 basic things that empower us to become what God intended us to be for His glory.

(Jesus told us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light; here is a summary of what that easy yoke and light burden consist of.)

Colossians 1:1-12

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother,
- 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,
- 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints.
- 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;
- 6 Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:
- 7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

- 8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.
- 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:

Here is what the Apostle Paul; someone who knows how to pray, asks on behalf of these new Christians:

A. ...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:

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

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

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

4. **Colossians 1:9**...‘all wisdom and spiritual understanding...

5. **Matthew 28:20**...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, every day!

Why?

*B. **Colossians 1:10** 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 wisdom and knowledge to learn how to recognize the enemy when you see him;
2. You must become strong enough to withstand him!

In Conclusion:

You may have been raised to be just like Johnny; but you don't have to stay just like 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.

And has the spiritual strength to fulfill it.