dinner doodles

WE LEARN OBEDIENCE in our relationship with our parents. They tell us what we need to do, and we obey. Or else.

We don't have enough knowledge to question whether what they are telling us is right or wrong. We are simply challenged to obey. If we don't obey, we become "rebellious." Some parents won't tolerate children who do not obey them. They will punish them for it, like sending them to their room, or not allowing them to have a privilege.

Some parents just smile at disobedience, and treat it like it's to be expected.

THE TRUTH IS, we MUST learn to be obedient in several ways because certain "blessings" only come to those who are obedient. SAFETY... Imagine people running red lights on streets just because they didn't think they should have to obey the law. We would have wrecks and deaths all day long.

FREEDOM... Some famous and nice people have gone to jail or prison just because they didn't think they had to obey the rules everyone else did. Some rich people have used "inside knowledge" to manipulate markets and make huge profits, knowing it was against the law. Prison is the result. Everyone must obey. MIRACLES... Did you know that obeying Jesus is critical to obtaining those miraculous needs we all have occasionally? Imagine a father saying, "If you do THIS I will give you THAT," and then giving you THAT anyway, even if you didn't do THIS. Get it? When God says we should do something, He really means it. And His miracles may depend on our obedience.





REMEMBER THE FIRST MIRACLE JESUS PERFORMED? He turned water into wine at a wedding in Cana, simply because the host had run out of it.

But His mother is the one who set it up. She

saw the empty wine jugs, and she knew her friends were going to be ashamed because they had not provided adequately. She called Jesus to her, and pointed out the problem. Then she told the servants, "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU" (John 2:5)

There is the simple key to the miraculous: "Do whatever He tells you." When we are obedient to Christ, He is free to bless us, even miraculously. WE LOVE TO QUOTE JOHN 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

WE SHOULD READ ON DOWN TO VERSE 36: (are you ready for this?)

"WHOEVER BELIEVES IN THE SON HAS ETERNAL LIFE; WHOEVER DOES NOT OBEY THE SON SHALL NOT SEE LIFE, BUT THE WRATH OF GOD REMAINS ON HIM" (ESV)

Jesus said, "No one can serve (obey) two masters. He will either love one, and hate the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Lu. 16:13). He was simply pointing out that for those who believe in Him, obedience to HIM must supersede all other things in our life!

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- 1. Is it sometimes difficult for you to obey others?
- 2. Do you think it's possible that others may be able to save you, or help you avoid danger, because they know something you haven't yet learned?
- 3. Do you think obedience is a sign of weakness, or a sign of strength?
- 4. If you were a parent, would you want your children to obey you?
- 5. If you could warn someone about a dangerous thing about to happen to them, would you? What if they didn't believe you?

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