

Barry's Godly Choice

Mr. Crenshaw, I have a question," Barry said to his teacher after Sunday School was over.

"Sure, Barry," Mr. Crenshaw said. "What's up?"

"I asked Jesus to be my Savior last month. You said He forgave my sins when I did that. Did He forgive me for everything?"

"Yes. That's what salvation is about."

"Well, something I did two months ago keeps bothering me," Barry said. "We were supposed to write a report for social studies. My sister had the same assignment last year. But she had a different teacher. I copied her report on India. My teacher, Mr. Boyd, didn't know the report was hers. He gave me a B. If God forgave me my sins, why do they still bother me?"

Mr. Crenshaw sat next to Barry. "When we sin, we offend God, but sometimes wrong others too. We need to seek forgiveness from both God and those we wrong."

"Should I tell Mr. Boyd?"

Mr. Crenshaw nodded and opened his Bible to Luke 19. "Zacchaeus promised to repay what he stole." Mr. Crenshaw pointed out verse eight. "Even though Jesus forgave him, Zacchaeus needed to make things right with the people he had wronged. His payment was his way of showing them that the Lord had given him new life and made him a new person."

Barry read Luke 19:1–10 again at home. Mr. Crenshaw was right. He would have to tell Mr. Boyd what he had done.

Monday after school Barry waited for the other kids to leave the classroom. Mr. Boyd looked serious as he listened to Barry.

"I'm sorry, sir," Barry finished. "I'll do the assignment over."

Mr. Boyd nodded. "That's exactly what I expect. And I want the report done by Friday."

"I will," Barry promised.

Barry worked hard on his report on Japan all week, searching the internet and reading library books. Barry started writing the report on Thursday night. But he didn't quite finish, so he set his

alarm to get up early.

Friday morning he thought about skipping his devotions. But he remembered what Mr. Crenshaw always said about starting the day with God. Thirty minutes later, Barry finished his devotions and his report.

While the other kids played outside during recess, Barry gave the report to Mr. Boyd. He waited nervously for his grade.

Barry felt hopeful, but when the teacher marked a big red F on the report, his hope turned to sadness. "An F?" he thought.

"What grade did you expect after cheating the first time, then not doing the assignment for two more months?" Mr. Boyd asked.

Barry hurried to the playground. He felt angry. How mean of Mr. Boyd to make him work so hard and then give him an F! If he had kept quiet, Mr. Boyd would never have known. "I should get a C for being honest in the end!" he thought.

Mrs. Adams called Barry to deliver a note to the principal. "I want you to deliver this note to Mrs. Oberman in person. If she's not in her office, wait for her."

The secretary in the school office said the principal was expected to be back any minute. So Barry sat down to wait. The door to the teachers' lounge was open. Barry heard Mr. Boyd.

"An unusual thing happened," his teacher was saying. "A student admitted he turned in a report he didn't write. I wasn't surprised. He's been a lazy student."

Barry wished that he couldn't hear the conversation.

"I told the boy to make up the work, of course," Mr. Boyd went on. "And I was surprised when he turned in a neat, well-written report. I had to give him an F because it was so late. But I wish I could have given the A the report deserved."

So Mr. Boyd had noticed!

"That boy has really changed," Mr. Boyd continued. "I wonder what's gotten into him. Some of my other students could use a dose of whatever it is."

Continued on back page.



Making Godly Choices

How can we learn to make godly choices? God has given a number of answers to that question. Here's how to find them. Print all the letters in the groups of letters numbered **1** on the first set of blanks below. Begin with the top row, moving from left to right. Also go through the letters from row to row. Do the same steps with the groups of letters numbered **2** and then **3**.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. CHOO | 2. CHOO | 3. REFU | 3. SETH |
| 1. SETH | 2. SETH | 2. ETHIN | 1. EF |
| 3. EEV | 1. EAR | 3. ILAND | 2. GSTHA |
| 3. CHOO | 1. OFTH | 3. SETH | 2. TPLEA |
| 3. EGOOD | 1. EL | 2. SEGOD | 1. ORD |

1 2 3



- 1.** _____ (Proverbs 1:29).
- 2.** _____ (Isaiah 56:4).
- 3.** _____ (Isaiah 7:15).

ANSWERS: (1) Choose the fear of the Lord. (2) Choose the things that please God. (3) Refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Nervous Lion Tamers

Lion tamers put their lives on the line every time they perform. At any moment their lions could attack them. God has perfect control over His creation. He tamed a lion and used it to judge a man who disobeyed Him (1 Kings 13).



Continued Story

Measuring Growth



Barry didn't know what to think when he heard his teacher say that. Mrs. Oberman came in right then, so he delivered the note and headed back to the playground.

He jumped to touch some signs on the wall of the hallway. Mr. Boyd had noticed!

Barry knew he'd have to keep working harder than he'd ever worked before to show his teacher his change was real. But he trusted God to help him make good choices from then on!

ANSWER to Puzzle above:



The Middler lesson for this week covered God's judgment on a man of God and kings Solomon, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam for their selfish, sinful choices. In carrying out His judgment, God showed that He has the highest authority and greatest power. Your child was encouraged to follow God's leading in his or her life and to trust God to guide him or her with loving compassion. Talk with your child about this week's measurables.

Measurables

Look for the following clues that your child recognizes God as the highest authority in his or her life.

1. My child seeks to know God's will in God's Word.
2. My child asks God for wisdom.
3. My child recognizes that God gave him or her parents to help him or her grow in the Lord.



STRONG
kids