

September 27, 2020

ESTHER AND EMMETT: Chores for Jesus

Esther: Hi Emmett. Would you like to hear a story?

Emmett: That would be great Esther. I love stories.

Esther: I should warn you, there will be a question after the story.

Emmett: Oh, kind of like a quiz!

Esther: Kind of...this is a story that Jesus told.

Emmett: Oh...more like a puzzle... okay, what's the story?

Esther: There was a man who had two sons.

Emmett: Two sons...got it. What were their names?

Esther: The story doesn't tell us their names.

Emmett: Okay, then let's call them...Son A and Son B.

Esther: Whatever. So the father comes to his two sons and asks them to do a farm chore for him. The first son...

Emmett: Is that Son A?

Esther: Sure, let's say it's Son A. Son A says that he will do the chore, but then he doesn't do it.

Emmett: What does he do instead?

Esther: The story doesn't tell us.

Emmett: Hmmmm, okay, maybe he wanted to watch something on TV.

Esther: They didn't have TV when Jesus lived.

Emmett: Oh, so what did he...

Esther: It doesn't matter. But the other son...

Emmett: That would be Son B.

Esther: Yes, Son B said that he wouldn't do the chore, but later he did do the chore.

Emmett: I'm glad someone did the chores.

Esther: After telling the story, Jesus asked a question: "Which of the sons did what the father wanted?"

Emmett: Could you please make that a multiple-choice question?

Esther: Okay. Who did what the father asked: Son A...or Son B?

Emmett: I'm going to go with option B...Son B. Actually, that was an easy one...unless it's a trick question.

Esther: Would I ask you a trick question?

Emmett: No, but Jesus might.

Esther: I think the tricky part is not answering the question, but trying to live the answer.

Emmett: Okay...now you've lost me!

Esther: Well, in the story the second son...

Emmett: That would be Son B.

Esther: Son B said that he was not going to do any chores, but then he did the chores...(pauses)

Emmett: Okay, now tell me the tricky part.

Esther: Jesus seems to be saying that when we want to see God's love being shared by other people, we can't just look at people who say the things we want to hear...

Emmett: Like Son A, saying he would do the chores, but then did whatever people did before they had TV...

Esther: We have to pay attention to what people do. So, I may disagree with someone about lots of things, but that someone may be volunteering to help teach children to read, or may be serving meals to people who are hungry, or...

Emmett: Or doing things the kinds of chores that Jesus might ask us to do!

Esther: That's a good way to think about being church.

Emmett: Church is people who do chores for Jesus!

Esther: "Chores for Jesus" -We should be that on a T-shirt!

Emmett: I'd wear one. But what would we put on the back of the shirt?

Esther: How about... 'AMEN'?

Emmett: Amen.