

FATHER KNOWS BEST

by Laura Shaw

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said...At once they left their nets and followed Him.”

Mark 1:17a, 18

“Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed Him.”

Luke 5:27b-28

One morning, I had just finished ranting to my older two children about how they needed to help more around the house. “You two are old enough to help,” I said, “I shouldn’t have to do all this by myself.” One began to help, the other left the room with heavy feet.

I preached to her as she stomped off, “Trust me, Angel, Mama knows these things!” A few minutes later my youngest came in and said, “Mom, would you like me to sweep the floor?” You gotta love that sibling rivalry! I said, “Sure, sweetheart, that would be great! I’d really appreciate the help.”

I chuckled under my breath as I watched her out of the corner of my eye. She had swept up a loose pile of food crumbs and dirt and was scooping it up in the dustpan. The stuff scattered as she inadequately “did her job.” She even picked a few things up with her fingers and put it onto the dustpan. It was cute and funny. After she left, I swept up the pieces she had missed and thought about how this scenario was a common one between the Lord and His children as well.

He asks us to do tasks for Him here on earth for whatever reason. We know He could easily do it all by Himself, but He requests it of us just the same. Sometimes, we willingly and cheerfully follow—sometimes we do it because others are watching or because we feel obligated. We do our best, but most of the time, we miss the mark or have pieces left over that need to be cleaned up after we’re finished. Certainly the disciples must have felt inadequate working alongside Jesus, but they followed Him anyway, though I’m sure at times it was humbling and frustrating.

My youngest came back a few minutes later and said, “Didn’t I do a good job on the floor, Mom?” I said, “Yes, honey, you did a great job, and Mommy went in and swept up the pieces you missed.” Then her cuteness fell apart. As she held out the doggy bank that had been hidden behind her back, she said, “OH! Thanks. Now are you going to pay me for it?”

It took a few minutes of getting over the shock of my six year old BABY asking me that, but again, isn’t that just like us as sons and daughters of our Father? *“I’ve done what you asked me to, Lord...when will I see the fruit?” “Why are you allowing so and so to go through this, God, when they’ve done such good work for you?”* You get the point. ***“Dad, are you going to pay me for it?”*** *(Even the disciples did this when they argued about who was the “greatest” among them in Mark 9:33-34).*

The lesson on the surface is simple: *“OK, I will work for God here on earth, I’ll try to do so willingly and cheerfully, I’ll rely on His strength and capability to help me, and I won’t expect anything in return!”* All of this is true, but the deeper realization the Lord had for me after I mulled it over is that He longs for these principles to be a natural part of who I am. He wants me to **SEE** His position as my Father through the eyes of a child, but He desires my life to be **LIVED** as that of a maturing believer, one completely surrendered when He calls. *“Lord, I’ll go where you send me today, not because You need me, or because I’ll be seen as greatest among You...but because I love You and trust that You are up to something.”* If my son or daughters came up to me today and said that, I would probably pass out!

Let’s answer when He asks us “to help him around the house” today, and let’s do so out of a will that it surrendered to our capable God, our Father who knows best!

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” *Philippians 1:6, NLT a*