

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry

Episode # 84, "Opie and the Spoiled Kid"

Introduction

Opie has become acquainted with a new boy in town named Arnold Winkler. Arnold is a spoiled brat who believes he can get away with anything. When Arnold discovers that Opie gets a mere quarter-a-week allowance and has to do chores to get it, he tells Opie that he's being taken advantage of. Arnold doesn't have to work for his allowance and believes that no kid should.

Opie decides to quietly demand that his father raise his allowance to 75 cents (the amount Arnold gets), and he says he should not have to do any chores. Opie is obviously uncomfortable making these demands, and he takes it well when Andy refuses to comply. Arnold tells Opie that "man to man" talks always fail. He advises Opie that throwing a temper tantrum will get him whatever he wishes. Arnold says it always works.

Lesson Points

Value of a Good Work Ethic (Gal. 6:7)

Where it Starts

Appreciation of Money

Physical and Spiritual Rewards (1 Cor. 3:8)

Utilization of Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)

Letting Ourselves Rule Our Lives - *Arnold*

I Want it My Way

Society's Emphasis on "Me"

Disrespect for All Authority

Changing Focus from Me to Others (Luke 10:30-37)

Skills of Parenting - *Andy*

Talking Straight

A calm demeanor (Eph. 6:4)

Firmness in What is Right

Being Accessible

Learning from Mistakes - *Opie*

Realizing Mistake and Making it Right

Honoring Authority (Eph. 6:1)

Attitude Adjustment

Discussion

1. How can we in our professional lives "shoot for the good feeling"?
2. If Arnold was allowed to continue his lifestyle, what kind of problems might he face as an adult?
3. Discuss Andy's approach to dealing with Opie's (attempted) tantrum.
4. Did you notice a change in Opie's attitude after witnessing Arnold's final tantrum?

Final Thought

"If we don't teach children to live in society today, what's going to happen when they grow up?"

Galatians 6:7 HCSB

Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap,

1 Corinthians 3:8 HCSB

Now the one planting and the one watering are one in purpose, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Matthew 25:14-30 HCSB

“For it is just like a man going on a journey. He called his own slaves and turned over his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; and to another, one — to each according to his own ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. In the same way the man with two earned two more. But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. “After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five talents approached, presented five more talents, and said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. Look, I've earned five more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy!’ “Then the man with two talents also approached. He said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. Look, I've earned two more talents.’ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy!’ “Then the man who had received one talent also approached and said, ‘Master, I know you. You're a difficult man, reaping where you haven't sown and gathering where you haven't scattered seed. So I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. Look, you have what is yours.’ “But his master replied to him, ‘You evil, lazy slave! If you knew that I reap where I haven't sown and gather where I haven't scattered, then you should have deposited my money with the bankers. And when I returned I would have received my money back with interest. “ ‘So take the talent from him and give it to the one who has 10 talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. But from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. And throw this good-for-nothing slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Luke 10:30-37 HCSB

Jesus took up the question and said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

Ephesians 6:4 HCSB

Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1 HCSB

Children, obey your parents as you would the Lord, because this is right.