

Have you heard of the game, “Bigger and better?”

In this game, kids start out with something of little value, like a dime, then they head into the neighborhood to see what they can trade it for. They knock on people’s doors and ask if they’d be willing to trade something for the dime, and then they go next door with whatever they just traded. The goal is to come back with a *bigger, better* thing that what you started out with. The *bigger* it is, the *better*.

Bob Goff, author and attorney, describes his son Richard’s experience playing this game in his neighborhood with his friends. Richard sets out with a dime and knocks on the front door of his neighbor, “Hi, we’re playing *bigger and better*, and I’m hoping to trade up to something bigger. Do you have anything you can trade me?”

The guy at the door had never heard of this game. Nevertheless, he calls back to his wife, “Hey Marge, there’s a kid here and we’re playing ‘Bigger and Better’...what do we have that’s bigger and better than a dime?”

Richard walks away with a ping-pong table.

By the end of the night, when he came home, Richard didn’t have a dime, a ping-pong table, an elk head, or the 5 others things he traded up. He came back home with...*a pickup truck. No lie.* He started with a dime, and ended up with a *Dodge pickup*.

***Teens with newly obtained driver’s license out there looking for a car. PSA: Be aware, results may vary from player to player.***

This game reminds me of today’s passage in the Gospel. A little boy exchanges something of little value, only to receive something *bigger and better* not only for him, but also for the entire crowd.

In fact, this miracle is the only miracle related in all four Gospels. And the challenge of this miracle is **whether we are willing to give up all we have to follow Jesus?**  
*Are we willing to trade up?*

This nameless boy in the Gospel was willing.

*This boy trusts. This boy is generous. This boy gives everything he has.*

Sometimes in our relationship with God and with others, we may fall either into giving God *the minimum*, meaning that we give God our *leftovers*. Or, we just give God what *we* want to give.

And that's the lesson we can learn from this boy. He just didn't give the people he loved or Jesus the minimum or the leftovers, *he gave all*. And he didn't give them just what he wanted to give, but what *God actually wanted*.

So, what about us? In my daily prayer or Sunday Mass, do I give God *my best* or whatever is *left*? Do I get to praying daily / adoration, only if I have time, or if I don't have any work, or when I'm sleepy and only right before bed, or after I just watch one more episode on Netflix?

“Yeah God, you can have my time, but *only* my *leftovers*.”

Young ladies, imagine you're on a date at a restaurant, and your date says, “Don't worry, I got this,” and only ordered one meal. Then he says, “It's ok. Let me eat first, and then you can have whatever is left on my plate.” Will your reaction be, “Aww... he's a keeper”?

But how often do we do that with God? More often than we care to admit. God often gets what's *left* rather than what's *best*.

But look at this another way. We often think that *we* have to *sacrifice* to God. The examples from the Bible – from the Gospel today with the little boy and even from the first reading of the book of Kings with the man giving all his barley loaves from Baalshalishah (now, isn't that a *mouthful!*!), *seems to make it look that way*.

But to God, **there's no sacrifice at all**. Jesus comes from heaven, where He has an amazing love relationship with the Father, which, by its nature, is the most beautiful existence any person could have. And He offers that very same relationship to *anybody* willing to let go of whatever is giving them *a false sense of security*. Why would anybody *not* want to make that trade?

Jesus is basically saying, “Look, none of the stuff you have is going to last, including you. You’ve only got about a dime’s worth of life now. Come and trade up, and follow me.”

While it seems like the boy in today’s Gospel learned this lesson through his physical possessions, Jesus is not asking us to play *Bigger and Better* necessarily with our money or possessions or even our hopes.

Jesus *may be asking us* to give up that thing we’re so proud of, that thing we believe causes us to *matter* in the eyes of the world, and give it up *to follow Him*. He’s asking us, “Will you take what you think defines you, leave it behind, and let *me* define who you are instead?”

The great thing about taking Jesus up on His offer is that whatever controls us, doesn’t anymore. People who used to be obsessed about becoming famous, no longer care whether anybody knows their name. People who used to want power are willing to serve. People who used to chase money, freely give it away. People who used to beg others for acceptance, are now strong enough to give love.

**Because when we get our security from Christ, we no longer have to look for it in the world.**

Spanish TikTok famous influencer, *Naim Darrechi* dared to tell his 26 million followers his thoughts when asked his opinion about abortion. He simply said, “An abortion is interrupting life... When a woman is pregnant...if she doesn’t abort, the natural cycle is going to make a life emerge. To those who are in favor of abortion because they say that ‘the fetus does not suffer...it’s not the question of whether it suffers or not. The question is that a life is being taken away. A life that society has disregarded.”

19 years old and from Spain, he’s one of the most influential Spanish young people on TikTok. He is able to charge up to 25k per endorsement on his page, as well as being a musician and author. He was aware that expressing such views could cost him and shower him with criticism.

But when asked, if his girlfriend were to become pregnant, what would he do? He replied, “I would be a dad *without hesitation*. You give me a child and I’ll fall in love with it.”

Naim is not an evangelizer or a saint as you can see by his other posts. But for a moment there, he risked his security to proclaim and follow *the Truth*. He handed more than a dime or even 5 barley loaves and two fish, he handed *his possible reputation*, endorsements, *popularity*, and got something *bigger and better* as over 7 million people heard him speak *the truth* on his platform.

And as for Richard and the Dodge Pickup? Well, he followed the example of the boy in today’s Gospel. The next day, with his parents, he donated it to the church down the street so they could use it for a family who needed a vehicle for work. Like the boy, like the man from the Book of Kings, even like a TikTok influencer, he *traded up*, gave away his security, and allowed God to give him something *much bigger and better* than he ever could imagine.