

I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED!

I was told to stay off of the farm machinery, but when I thought no one was watching, I climbed on to a piece of it anyway. Aunt Joyce happened to catch me and before I could get down she was there and gave me one of the worst whoppings I have ever had and I have had many.

Most summers and holidays I would spend with my grandparents or aunts and uncles on their farms. The above situation took place on Grandpa and Grandma Stickney's farm near Bowler. Their farm had no running water, except for what we ran for. They had no electricity so we used lanterns for all of our lighting. The summer was spent with a lot of leisure time, swimming in the creek, calling the cows for milking and helping out where ever I could.

This was a very simple life as we would go berry picking right across the road. When the chores were done and everything cleaned up we would visit about the upcoming harvest of wheat or other matters. There was a threshing crew here that went from farm to farm. The wives of the workers would come along and work with Grandma to fix a delicious meal for everyone.

My bed was made out of feather down, if I remember right, but it was cozy and comfortable. My Grandparents always treated me well. And those were years of learning. Examples included, "Do not take anything that doesn't belong to you, do not swear, always tell the truth and treat everyone with kindness".

My dad was the second oldest of 12 children. Most of them lived in Appleton and Antigo and in between. When they would get together it always meant sheepshead for cards, beer and a lot of loud talking about who didn't play the right card and that was why we lost.

Even though most of this part of the family were not church goers, the lessons I learned from them, along with my parents, laid a solid foundation for me. Later through the church and Gods' Word my foundation was strengthened and showed me how much I need a Savior from sin. This is the corner stone for my faith and trust in God as my one and only Savior. If only *I would have learned to listen earlier*. In fact, I'm told I still don't listen!

I'm sure you have experiences similar to these and it's a good time to thank your Lord for the foundation that was placed by many of your older family members. Let's place the importance of listening (especially to the Gospel of Jesus) with what James has to say about it.

James 1:19-25 ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

