

## “What Scripture says, God Says”

In 1940, Walt Disney released a major motion picture adaptation of the 1883 Italian novel, *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi. But Disney took a dark fairy tale and twisted it to a sweet, happily-ever-after story. For example, in the original book, Collodi portrays Pinocchio as a petulant child who diverges from instructions and treats authority figures with contempt. In the movie, however, Pinocchio is a naïve, innocent character who is fooled by others, such as the fox and the cat. Another change in the movie is the character of Jiminy Cricket. Disney portrays Jiminy as the wise voice of conscience to guide the naïve Pinocchio. He is the one who famously said, “Let conscience be your guide.” In contrast, the Talking Cricket is introduced in fourth chapter of Collodi’s book as correcting Pinocchio and instructing him to go back home. At this rebuke, Pinocchio furiously takes a hammer and throws it at the talking cricket, striking it on its head. Collodi then writes, “With a last weak ‘cri-cri-cri’, the poor Cricket fell from the wall, dead!” The Talking Cricket later returns as a ghost to instruct Pinocchio, but Pinocchio never apologizes. He only scoffs at the advice. Yet, what line do we remember today? Most likely, “Let conscience be your guide.”

I’d like to consider what guided Jesus. If we can agree that Jesus was wise and a good example to emulate, then should we not consider his guide in all affairs? Well, when we do, we discover that the consistent source of guidance for Jesus was the Bible. He affirmed the history and the moral teachings of the Bible. He affirmed God as the author of the Bible. In Matthew 19, Jesus quotes Genesis and then tells us that God said it. According to Jesus, what Scripture says, God says.

But what makes him trustworthy? It boils down to the person of Christ. Who is he? In a scene from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Lucy enters Narnia through a wardrobe and then tells her siblings about it. They don’t believe her. A wise old professor asks Peter whether Lucy is a liar. Peter denies this, since he knows her too well. Well, is she insane? Peter concludes from her behavior that she is not insane. Well, Lucy must be telling the truth.

In the same way, there was no conceivable motive for Jesus to lie. There was also no conceivable argument for his lunacy. Lunatics are egotists, predictable, and unable to love or understand others. But these are the opposite traits of Jesus. This leaves us with Jesus as Lord. And if he entrusted himself to the Word of God, should we not consider it as our authority, instead of our conscience?

Judson Marvel

Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Sierra Vista, AZ