

The God who makes wooden people real
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July 3, 2016

() CLIP # 1 – 13:05 – 14:02

() Poor Gepetto! Maker of so many beautiful things... **Investor** of so much love into **his creations...** **PAUSE...** All he really wants > is for one of his wooden puppets > **to become REAL!**

(READ) “**Real** > so that he can **love it as real!**... **Real** > so that **it can love him back** in a real way... **[STOP]** It’s the dream of many a creator I’m sure... **to see work of her hands > come to life!**... **be fully itself and whole...** see it **become > all that it could become!**

(SLOW) **Gepetto’s heart is made in the image of God’s!.... PAUSE...** God’s heart for you... is that you become **fully alive...** that you be **more real than you could ever imagine!**... that you be enabled to wholeheartedly **love and ‘be loved in return’!**

[STOP] Can you imagine God wanting that for you? **PAUSE...**

Of course, in the story of Pinocchio, Gepetto’s wish comes true (**this is Disney after all!**) > Pinocchio *is* made real...

[STOP] Well sort of!... Pinocchio is given life... but he’s not **fully a boy yet...** he’s given a **conditional** life... conditional on **Pinocchio PROVING HIMSELF...**

This is how it plays out >

() CLIP # 2 -15:22 – 17:28 - Freeze after> “Conscience it that still small voice that nobody listens to..”

In order for Pinocchio to become real > he must “**prove himself brave, truthful and unselfish**” < to help him accomplish task > he’s given a conscience (a **still small voice no one listens to!**)... His **conscience has a name** > It’s Jiminy Cricket!

Interesting > how the Fairy **defines** Jiminy Cricket's role in the next scene when she give him the charge to be Pinocchio's conscience;

"() Lord high keeper of the knowledge of right and wrong, counselor in moments of temptation, and guide along the straight and narrow path" <

Another **JC**, when he was giving his charge to his disciples in an **upper room**, promised a Spirit that be their guide... that would work through their consciences.... Jesus called him the > **"() Spirit of truth... Counsellor... will teach you all things... he will guide you into all truth"** John 14: 16,17; 16:13, NIV

One way > the Spirit manifests itself > is via our consciences!...

An internal guidance system > that God has built into us...

Apostle Paul> **"() When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong."**
Romans 2:14-15, NIV

That thing deep within > is our **conscience!**... We can listen to it... OR NOT!... < which is **the human conundrum!**...

PAUSE... An also Pinocchio's!... < and boy did he need the guidance! >> "Nice Puppet and all... but a bit naïve... innocent little sap(ing)... not **fastest growing branch** on the tree!"

Like when **he sees candle?**... "Oh nice!"... and sets finger on fire!!...

Pinocchio has not idea how **combustible** he is!... < that's the trouble with sin... we're naïve to it's deceptions < we can never fully see it ourselves! It operates in a blind spot < and so we have no idea how **vulnerable** we really are!... vulnerable to **danger**... and **temptation!** **PAUSE...**

Which is really what rest of Pinocchio Story is all about!...

The next day as Pinocchio is heading to School > he meets a deceiver... a tempter, named "**Honest John**"... **and then this happens >**

() CLIP # 3 - 30:37 – 32:04 with a slow 8 second fade

"() For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it." Jesus in Matthew 7:13, NIV

(SLOW READ) "Ah the power of temptation... **FIRST** > it convinces that it 'only has your best interests in mind' (it picks you up and dusts off)... **THEN it appeals to your pride...** ('your quite a scholar I see') **THEN it offers the bait...** (bright lights/fame/ wide and easy road to success!) (Did you see how shiny and red that apple was? ☺) **THEN it takes our hand > and leads us astray!"**

[STOP] "I can see the serpent now"

[STOP] That scene could have come straight out Garden of Eden... **"Just one bite... they'll treat you like a god!"... PAUSE...** and so Pinocchio bites... and he meets some success (why not get the hook in deep?)... and then he meets even more failure!... and ends up in real pickle (and ignoring his conscience again) he falls even further into the abyss!

He ends up getting **locked up in a cage...** and **losing all his freedom...** under the control of a **very cruel master...** **(READ) "First sin offers you life... and then it locks you in!"**

Pinocchio was in a bind... **"() I guess I'll never see my Father again!"**

Jiminy Cricket was right, **"() It'll take a miracle to get us out of here..."**

[STOP] (SLOW) And all the while Gepetto wanders through the town desperately searching for his lost creation!

(SLOW) And then the fairy shows up again...

CLIP #4 - 47:46 - 50:04

Ah... There's the problem with **trying be TRUTHFUL ENOUGH to become real...** > There's a tendency to **lie!**... to avoid blame...**PAUSE...**

to hide away because of the shame... do whatever it takes to duck your culpability!... **PAUSE...**

"() The *woman* you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Adam in Genesis 3:12, NIV

"() Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The **serpent** deceived me, and I ate." Eve in Genesis 3:13, NIV

[STOP] () Sadly, we are not as lucky as Pinocchio and gifted with a nasal barometer!)

(READ) "Our lies **grow something else... in another place** deep within us... they grow **calluses around consciences** ... they **mute and deaden** our sense right and wrong... and all moral and ethical sensitivity is lost."

(READ) When that happens we lose all sense of direction... and make even **worse choices**... and end up even **further from God and from the truth**

() CLIP #5 - NO SOUND 64:05 ("Pinocchio!") – 65:40 FREEZE

(SLOW) Words from Paul's letter to the Roman church... "() Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead... When they refused to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their evil minds and let them do things that should never be done." Romans 1:20-22, NIV

"The punishment for sin is more sin..." PAUSE... People fool themselves... We end up in Sodom's and Gommorah's (places where **little residual good is left!**)

(READ) Paul goes on to describe in graphic detail the increasingly bad choices people made!... **PAUSE...** Sort of like what **"Pinocchio"** finds

himself in... “Honest John” was bad enough... But the “Evil Coachman” was much worse> he tempts Pinocchio & boys> with Pleasure Island!

Pleasure Island > a place with no rules... do whatever want (smoke, drink, play pool!)... break and destroy things > no ramifications... do whatever bad you want > no consequence!... **PAUSE**... only there **was** a consequence (they couldn't see coming)... **(because > their “minds were dark and confused”)**...

“And even as they did all they wanted, they were becoming “utter fools”

“Give a bad boy enough rope and he'll soon make a jackass out of himself” PAUSE...

[STOP] The boys had no idea > actions would lead to this state! <
[in the film its such a scary and horrible scene]

“Sin deceives... lies hide!”

[STOP]

“() They've trained their tongues to tell lies, and now they can't tell the truth. They pile wrong upon wrong, stack lie upon lie, and refuse to know me.” Jeremiah 9:3-4, MSG

(SLOW)“I've always thought the story of Pinocchio was about boy heading in one direction (to become real)... But it's as much a cautionary tale about avoiding heading in another direction... **“It's a story about the battle over who he will become... for his very soul.”**...

[STOP]

So how does the story end?... you know!!... Pinocchio escapes island... saves “Gepetto who is out to save him” and via a selfless act he's finally **proven** true... affirmed as true by fairy... becomes a real boy < great resurrection scene at end!

[STOP]

(READ) “Pinocchio did what he was supposed to do!... and found real life **PAUSE**... Which is where the Pinocchio story goes a little OFF SCRIPT when it comes to its resonance with the Christian Gospel... Yes, he **needed an outside force to save and resurrect him**... Yes his **Maker risked his life to save him**... Yes, **God does want us to make good choices and follow his Spirit’s lead**... **(SLOW)** But the truth is... the bottom line when it comes to getting good with God again > we cannot do it ourselves... we can’t earn it... never be good enough!”

[() Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It’s God’s gift from start to finish! We don’t play the major role. If we did, we’d probably go around bragging that we’d done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.” Ephesians 2:8-10, MSG

CLIP #6 –NO SOUND 84:29 – 86:01 FREEZE

(READ) God’s story **GRACE = JESUS CHRIST**... resurrected for us... first... paved a way back to God... A God who’s heart yearns for us > find real life! > promises us that in Xt!...

() I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” John 10:10

() Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, s/he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5 niv

And it’s not done > it continues> **(2)** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV

God wants no strings attached life... wooden/real... **his love that makes the change!!** > **[GOD's love passionate, creatorly, urgent passion for U]**