

# Sammy and His Mother

by D.L. Moody

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*Becoming a Christian is the hardest and easiest thing a person can do, requiring surrender to God and giving up one's will.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 11:28, Luke 15:18, John 1:12, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9

**Topics:** "Surrendering to God", "Forgiveness"

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## Description

D.L. Moody shares a touching story about a little boy named Sammy who struggles to ask his mother for forgiveness, illustrating the difficulty of surrendering one's will. Despite his father's coaxing, Sammy insists he 'can't' ask for forgiveness, reflecting the internal struggle many face when it comes to submitting to God. Ultimately, after much tension, Sammy finally asks for forgiveness, demonstrating that while it may seem hard to come to God, it is actually the most reasonable and liberating choice one can make. Moody emphasizes that the hardest part of becoming a Christian is the unwillingness to let go of one's own will, urging listeners to come to God without delay. The sermon concludes with a call to believe in Jesus for salvation.

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## Transcript

At one time my sister had trouble with her little boy, and the father said, "Why, Sammy, you must go now and ask your mother's forgiveness." The little fellow said he wouldn't. The father says, "You must. If you don't go and ask your mother's forgiveness, I shall have to undress you and put you to bed." He as a bright, nervous little fellow, never still a moment, and the father thought he would have such a dread of being undressed and put to bed. But the little fellow wouldn't, so they undressed him, and put him to bed. The father went to his wife, "Has Sammy asked your forgiveness?" "No," she said; "he hasn't." So the father went to him, and said, "Why, Sammy, why don't you ask your mother's forgiveness?" The little fellow shook his head, "Won't do it." "But, Sammy, you have got to." "Couldn't." The father went down to his office, and stayed all the afternoon, and when he came home he asked his wife, "Has Sammy asked your forgiveness?" "No; I took something up to him and tried to have him eat, but he wouldn't." So the father went up to see him, and said, "Now, Sammy, just ask your mother's forgiveness, and you may be dressed and come down to supper with us." "Couldn't do it." The father coaxed, but the little fellow "couldn't do it." that was all they could get out of him. You know very well he could, but he didn't want to. Now, the hardest thing a man has to do is to become a Christian, and it is the easiest. That may seem a contradiction, but it isn't. The hard point is because he don't want to.

The hardest thing for a man to do is to give up his will. That night they retired, and they thought surely early in the morning he will be ready to ask his mother's forgiveness. The father went to him--that was Friday morning--to see if he was ready to ask his mother's forgiveness, but he "couldn't." The father and mother felt so bad about it they couldn't eat; they thought it was to darken their whole life. Perhaps that boy thought that father and mother didn't love him. Just what many sinners think because God won't let them have their own way. The father went to his business, and when he came home he said to his wife, "Has Sammy asked your forgiveness?" "No." So he went to the little fellow, and said, "Now, Sammy, are you not going to ask your mother's forgiveness?" "Can't," and that was all they could get out of him. The father couldn't eat any dinner; it was like death in the house. It seemed as if the boy was going to conquer his father and mother. Instead of his little will being broken, it looked very much as if he was going to break theirs. Late Friday afternoon, "Mother, mother, forgive," says Sammy, "me." And the little fellow said "me," and he sprang to his feet, and said, "I have said it, I have said it. Now, dress me, and take me down to see father. He will be so glad to know I have said it." And she took him down, and when the little fellow came in, he said, "I've said it, I've said it."

O my friends, it is so easy to say, "I will arise and go to my God." It is the most reasonable thing you can do. Isn't it an unreasonable thing to hold out? Come right to God this very hour. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

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