



"I work for this fast-food place. I make minimum wage. My boss treats me like dirt. I get the worst jobs and he's always yelling at me for every little mistake. If I need a day or a week-end off to do something with my family, he won't let me off. I mean, come on—I'm only in high school. It's not like flipping burgers is my life's work. The owner's a millionaire, while I'm just trying to earn some extra money. He's getting cheap help and he doesn't have to pay me benefits. So he shouldn't take advantage of me by acting like he's doing me a favor. I'm doing him a favor. I asked for this weekend off to go water skiing and my boss said no. So I quit. There are plenty of fast food restaurants looking for part-time help."

Ron, 16, sophomore

The Stats

Full time students who work—

- Less than 30 hours a week: 25%
- More than 30 hours a week: 31%

Part time students who work—

- Less than 30 hours a week: 16%
- More than 30 hours a week: 70%

USA Today

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By the Book...

Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

Proverbs 16:8

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Luke 16:10-12

MINIMUM WAGE REFUND

Greg has been earning minimum wage at a record store for a year now, working just part-time. He's tried to get a higher paying job, but there's just nothing out there. At first he thought he could make it on minimum wage, but the gas and insurance for his car are higher than he expected. He asked for a raise twice and was turned down both times.

He deserved a raise, Greg thought, since he was a hard worker, willing to help out when no one else would. But apparently that didn't matter. In fact, the manager let Greg know that if he wasn't happy he could quit, because he had plenty of people on a waiting list who wanted Greg's job.

So even though he had no extra spending money for things like CD's, having a job was better than not having one.

With the big July Fourth Holiday Sale coming up, the boss asked Greg to mark down prices on many of the older albums. Tom, a friend who also works at the store, let Greg in on a little scheme that worked last year for Tom: he had marked down—supposedly by mistake—some new CDs, arranged for a friend to buy them, then had bought them off his friend. It worked like a charm.

Greg decided there was nothing wrong with getting what you deserved. After all, the manager was cheating him out of money. This seemed like a fair way to get what he deserved in the first place—so he did it.

1. Did Greg deserve better pay?

2. Was Greg's manager wrong to refuse to give Greg a raise?

3. Was the scheme actually stealing?

4. Who was cheating whom?

