

From "Bowl of Trouble" © 2010, Jeff Taylor

Mom: I found this in one of your pockets while doing the laundry.

(Mom pulls out a baggie)

Harrison: What's that? That's not mine. I don't even know what it is.

Mom: Oh, I know you know what this is. How could you, didn't we teach you the difference between right and wrong?

Dad: Son, this is a serious problem. Your best way through this is to come clean.

Mom: **(mumbling)** where did we go wrong?

Dad: Son, I'm only going to ask you this once, is it yours?

Harrison: Mom I can't believe you would go through my stuff!

Mom: I was doing your laundry, which by the way was in the hamper.

Harrison: Still that's not fair

Dad: We're waiting.....

Harrison: It's just that.....

Dad: The holes getting deeper.

Harrison: ALL RIGHT!! THE CEREAL IS MINE!! ARE YOU HAPPY?! I BOUGHT THE CEREAL AND HAVE BEEN EATING IT, IT'S GOOD, IT'S TASTY, ALL THE KIDS ARE DOING IT AND I DON'T SEE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!!

Mom: You don't see a problem? You know that cereal is illegal and has been for years! Did you even stop and think about the consequences if you were caught eating this cereal and what impact it would have on you? On us?

Dad: Son, if it were discovered that you were arrested for possession of cereal I would probably lose my job. Not to mention the shame at the bowling alley.

Harrison: There's not enough cereal there for me to even get in trouble for.

Dad: How long has this been going on?

Harrison: A couple of months or so.

Mom: A couple of months? Oh lord Eric, what are we going to do?

Dad: Let me think for a second. Harrison, did you ever take the cereal with milk?

Harrison: Only once, someone brought a gallon of it to a party and everyone was trying it. I had one bowl but that's all I swear!

Mom: Oh my! Eric, our son's on a path to destruction.

Dad: Calm down Carrie. Got get me a glass of water while I talk to Ben.

Mom: Ok **(mumbling)** I don't know where we went wrong

Harrison: Dad this is not fair! It's just a small bag of cereal. You're telling me that you never had cereal growing up? Never? It's not like I was driving when I ate it and I never would have.

Dad: Son, your mother and I are worried because we care. Cereal may not seem bad to you now but trust me in the future you'll be glad that you stayed away. I've seen what it can do over and over again. Remember Uncle Marty? Well, back in our day someone offered him some cereal once. I remember that day clearly. You could clearly tell he was under the influence of the cereal. After that, he was never the same. Soon he was eating cereal all the time, sometimes three, four times a day. First it was just the easy cereals, the ones that you can eat without milk, and then he was mixing it with milk. Even then he was strung out on the stuff he wanted more so he went to the hot cereal. There were days I would find him with his spoon just sitting there, no cereal, but you could tell he was hurting for some. It took him a while to clean up but he'll never fully recover, not after what he's eaten. You mother and I could never forgive ourselves if you became that.

Harrison: I never knew.....

