

This is the Day...Thursday

July 28, 2022

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)

When I was a young boy, I was very involved in the Boy Scouts. I enjoyed the meetings each Monday evening and learned many skills that have stuck with me through the years. But I mostly enjoyed our camping trips. We would regularly take trips to the North Carolina mountains or just over to Crowders Mountain in Gastonia. We would camp out in our tents, go fishing, build campfires, and just enjoy being outside. Every trip also included some type of long hike and some of those hikes were grueling!

You would think that just walking around with friends would not be very strenuous. But the fact that we were carrying about sixty pounds of supplies on our backs and walking up and down steep hills in the heat of the summer, made some of those hikes a real challenge. In an effort to take our minds off the heat and our aching muscles, we would often sing songs as we hiked. One of my favorites was an old children’s traditional tune that was fun to sing. It was called, John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt. The lyrics go something like this:

John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt
His name is my name too
Whenever we go out
The people always shout
There goes
John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt, da, da, da, da, da, da, da

The song is infinitely repetitive and gets louder each time it is sung. I never thought about the song very much when I was hiking. I was just glad to have something else to focus on. But later I realized that the song explains that the singer of the song has the same name as the person he is singing about, and people always recognize them when they go out. The singer looks and acts like John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt, so much so that others cannot tell the difference.

The Bible tells us that we are to be imitators of God. We are to take on the name and attributes of our Savior. We are to act like He acted. We are to love like He loved. We are to show compassion, patience, and forgiveness as He has done. We are to imitate the Lord so well that others cannot tell the difference between us.

On this day which God has given you, sing about the one whose name you carry and whose life you strive to imitate. Take on His name and likeness. Let your life reveal His presence. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery. What greater compliment could there be than to have someone think of Jesus when they see you.