

# Taking on Big John

One day, a bus driver was rolling along his usual route, made a scheduled stop, and a big hulk of a man got on.

He was six feet, eight inches tall, built like a wrestler, and with arms that appeared, at least, to hang to the ground. He gazed at the driver and told him, “Big John doesn’t pay!” Then he sat at the back of the bus.

The driver was five feet, three inches tall, thin, and very meek, so he didn’t argue with Big John. But he wasn’t happy.

The next day, the same thing happened, and the next. The bus driver began to lose sleep over the way Big John was taking advantage of him.

Finally, he could stand it no longer. He signed up for body-building classes, karate, judo, and self-esteem courses. By the end of the summer, the bus driver had become stronger and more confident.

So when Big John entered the bus and again declared, “Big John doesn’t pay!” the driver finally took him on. He stood up, glared at Big John, and bellowed, “And why not!”

With a surprised look on his face, Big John replied, “Big John has a bus pass.”



That story is instructive from several viewpoints, among them:

- A failure to communicate. The question that was finally asked would have put the entire situation on a different track if posed the first time Big John got on the bus.
- The risk of assumptions. What appeared to be a threatening situation to the bus driver was something entirely different.
- A lack of performance. Bus drivers that I have encountered typically ask for the ticket – or why you are on the bus – at the outset.

In any of these scenarios, conflict was very nearly the result.

*Do not fret – it only causes harm (Psalm 37:8 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter