Response paper to the story of "Young Goodman Brown"

Religious beliefs are often controversial and complicated among the public, an aspect that the story of "Young Goodman Brown" clearly portrays. If an individual believes in a certain course, such as Christianity, it would be unwise to look for the devil. Provocations are everywhere, and Goodman fails to realize this on many occasions leading to a poor quality of life. A careful look into the self-scrutiny of Goodman Brown shows a distrustful, darkly meditative, and sad man whose actions lead him to shatter his Christian beliefs.

Young Goodman Brown has the urge to know the evil world and does not look back in his quest. As Goodman sets off to the forest from his home, his wife pleads with him to stay home because she fears being alone. However, Goodman is set on his dark path and does not utter a word to his wife about where he is going. Ironically, the wife tells him that she wants them to pray together during the night, but we later see her in the forest at the same place where Goodman is heading. Goodman thinks that his wife of three months is so holy that he will cling to her skirts and follow her to heaven. It is this strong attachment to her wife's 'faith' that later makes him break further, knowing that Faith is not the person he has married. The matter makes him conclude that there is no good on earth and sin is just a name.

Young Goodman Brown is a darkly meditative young man whose actions depict of the edges he will go to find the devil. When he meets with the man in the forest, it is clear that they had planned this meeting despite Goodman's hesitance and fear. Goodman is offered a stick with
a serpent that appears to be moving on it, but he refuses the offer. At this point, one wonders whether it is clear to him that this is the wrong path as a Christian. His devotion to his religious beliefs should have turned him back home to his wife if she had not left yet. The stories that Goodman is told about his family members making the same route and coming back happy should have scared him enough to go back. However, this did not stop him, as his darkly meditative nature wanted a taste of the darkness but was in denial.

Goodman's sadness clearly indicates how he does not want to be alone in his beliefs. At the party, he is surprised to see people from his village happy, and his wife is welcomed as the new member. Goodman cannot help that he is the only person who is clinging to his Christian belief. Goodman had previously admitted that if Deacon Gookin and other people were dining with the devil, he might as well do the same. Goodman's action shows a person with weak Faith. His beliefs are not strong enough to keep him on a path of righteousness. When he gets home, he cannot differentiate between the dream and reality and sees everyone as evil. He fails to understand that sin is everywhere, and it should not make him create enmity with other people. Thus, Goodman lives a sad life after that with depression without ever trusting anyone else.

Goodman, a man who is distrustful, darkly meditative, and sad, takes up actions that lead him to shatter his Christian beliefs. Goodman is fixed on finding other people's happiness source rather than identifying his through Christianity. He must have been obsessed with identifying what the devil could offer that he went looking for an invitation. It would not be a wonder knowing that other community members and family started this way on their way to the dark world. Therefore, his interactions and actions slowly lead him to lose his beliefs.