

Children of God

Text: Luke 18:15-17 ¹⁵ And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Introduction: Let's look at the previous work and teaching of Christ in this chapter (Luke 18)

- ❖ **Jesus' Parable of Prayer-** Fearless Judge & the Persistent Widow-
Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- ❖ **Jesus Parable of the Self-Righteous Pharisee and the Publican**
Luke 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:
- ❖ **OUR TEXT** is the next of Christ's teaching in this chapter!
- ❖ **Rich Young Ruler**
- ❖ **Concludes with Blind Bartimaeus' healing on the road to Jericho**

I love this account in the Life of Jesus because it demonstrated that in His eyes

- He is never too busy even for the least of us
 - Everyone is welcome to come
 - Everyone is important to Him
 - He has time for all classes of people
 - His blessing on the healthy is just as important as his healing of the sick or hurting
 - Our children need to meet Him and have Him touch their lives!!!
 - Illustrates the theme of my message--- Rich/Poor-Healthy/Sick-Wise/Unlearned-Young/Old-Father/Mother-Stranger/Familiar Friend-Preacher/Prayer Warrior
- WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD---WE ARE ALL IMPORTANT TO HIM-GOD WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN OUR LIVES!!!**

Matthew Henry Commentary--Observe here, 1. Those who are themselves blessed in Christ should desire to have their children also blessed in him...They brought to him *infants*, very young, not able to go, sucking children, as some think. None are too little, too young, to bring to Christ, who knows how to show kindness to them that are not capable of doing service to him. It is the mind of Christ that *little children* should be brought to him, and presented as living sacrifices to his honour: "*Suffer little children to come to me, and forbid them not*"; let nothing be done to hinder them, for they shall be as welcome as any." *The promise is to us, and to our seed*; So welcome are *children* to Christ that those grown people are most welcome to him who have in them most of the **disposition of children** (v. 17): *Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child*, that is, receive the benefits of it with humility and thankfulness, not pretending to merit them as the Pharisee did, but gladly owning himself indebted to free grace for them, as the publican did; unless a man be brought to this self-denying frame he shall *in no wise enter* into that kingdom. They must receive the kingdom of God as *children*, receive their estates by descent and inheritance, not by purchase, and call it their Father's gift.

A child prayed as his father listened—God, make me like my daddy-Big and Strong and Smart
The father soon left and also went and prayed—Lord, make me like my child-Obedient, Faithful, Trusting!

I. Why are the Ways or Attributes of children so essential to us in our relationship to God?

1. **Everyone must start with the same beginning—John 3:1-5** There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God

be with him.³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. START AT THE CORRECT STARTING LINE-there's no other place to begin with God!!!!

2. **Children are Clean and Innocent—Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the Pure in heart: for they shall see God
3. **God loves their Faith**—They SIMPLY BELIEVE WHAT THEY ARE TOLD—miracles happen in 3rd world gatherings because the people SIMPLY BELIEVE that God Can and Will!
4. **Children are obedient and understand Subjection**—Biblical Commandment-Obey your parents!
5. **Children are helplessness**- they need Protection- they are easily frightened and seek protection quickly
6. **Children Love with all their Heart**
7. **Children understand the concept of Learning and Growth**- Christian Maturity is the Goal!
8. **Children Dream Big and aren't limited by REASON or CIRCUMSTANCE**-They have big dreams and they believe they will!
9. **Children have tender hearts and can be easily touched by God**
10. **Children are an essential element in an earthy family. THIS ILLUSTRATES AND REMINDS US THAT WE BELONG TO A HIGHER ORDER—WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD – WE BELONG TO HIM! HE IS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER!!!**

Closing: The ninety-two-year-old minister, who had pastored and preached for over seventy years, was asked to speak at a packed YOUNG PEOPLE CONFERENCE.

With an unsteady walk and trembling movements, he arrived at the pulpit and began his message with these simple words:

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me when I'm good,
When I do the things I should,
Jesus loves me when I'm bad,
Though it makes Him very sad.

HE CONCLUDED WITH A SIMPLE STATEMENT—THIS SONG IS THE TOTALITY OF WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN MY MANY YEARS OF SERVICE UNTO GOD AND MY MANY YEARS OF ACTIVELY STUDYING HIS WORD! WHAT OTHER MESSAGE CAN I SHARE THAT IS MORE ACCURATE OR MORE TIMELY IN SHOWING GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL OF US?

JESUS LOVES ME AND YOU COMPLETELY!