



Kingdom Come: The Little Children and Jesus

LUKE 18:15-17 | APRIL 9 & 10, 2016

This week we continue in our series called Kingdom Come. The sermon centers on just 3 verses from Luke 18:15-17. In this passage Jesus once again surprises his listeners by granting value, dignity and worth to those considered worthless in society. He dignifies and points to children as the model for life with God in the kingdom.

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What is something you really enjoy about babies and little children? (If there is nothing then answer...what is wrong with you?! OR why is it sometimes hard to get excited about little children and babies?)



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

Why is it that children were not valued during Jesus' lifetime?

What does it mean to "receive the kingdom of God like a little child"? (Luke 18:17) What are some of the positive characteristics of "childlikeness" that Jesus might hope his listeners would consider?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What idea(s) from the sermon most challenged you, influenced you or helped you see God's love in a new way?

Luke has portrayed Jesus' love for lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors, women, crippled and blind, Gentiles and Samaritans and now children. His love is clearly inclusive. If Jesus' heart is so inclusive, why do you suppose today's Christians/evangelicals strike people as so exclusive?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Considering the question above, what might Christlikeness look like in our world today? Can you imagine it? Could you imagine living like Jesus?

Try to put some specificity around "like a little child". What would childlike mean in terms of: your prayer and Bible reading, your worship and church attendance, your work life, your home life, your driving, your play, your stresses, etc?

DIGGING DEEPER

Consider a Christian-living passage like Psalm 1, Romans 12:9-21, Colossians 3:1-17 or John 15. To what extent would these "life instructions" qualify as "receiving the kingdom of God like a little child"?

GRADUATE LEVEL

Where does following God become most complex or complicated for you? Does your journey with Christ feel more like "taking up your cross" (Matthew 10:38, 16:24) or more like "taking on the easy yoke of Christ" (Matthew 11:30) When you talk about your journey to others or invite people to consider Christ, which vision of life with God do you communicate? Are these ideas in conflict?