

“Immense Value of Children”

Matthew 18:1-10

We will learn about the immense value of children according to Christ.

I. Children can teach us how to get into the kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:3 — *“and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

A. There are two crucial steps to getting into the kingdom of heaven: conversion and child-like humililty.

1. **Be Converted** – has the meaning of someone turning us from our course of conduct. One must recognize and turn away from one’s sins against God and fellow man.
2. Jesus, told Nicodemus. **John 3:3** — *“unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
3. **Become like children** – they are trusting, dependent, weak, undeveloped, unskilled, vulnerable, unambitious.

II. Children can teach us how to be great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:4 *“Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

A. Greatness is achieved through humble obedience.

1. **“To humble”** – means to make low, to lower ourselves.
2. God does all the converting but we do all the humbling. - **1 Peter 5:6–7**

B. Greatness is earned because humility is difficult.

1. Jesus is the supreme example of one who humbled himself – **Philippians 2:5–8** —
2. We cannot follow Jesus without humility – **Matthew 16:24**

3. Areas that require humility:

- a. admitting that we were wrong.

- b. asking someone to forgive us our offence.
- c. treating others as more important than ourselves.
- d. giving up our rights that God’s will be accomplished.

III. The value of Children is be reflected in our treatment of them:

Matt 18:5 *“And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;”*

A. Welcoming them is to welcome Christ Himself -

1. Ways to receive children:

- a. Love them by meeting their needs.
- b. Teach them about God the father and His love for them.
- c. Adopt them if they have not parents.

B. Harming them is to invite severe wrath from God.

Matthew 18:6 *but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

1. **“Cause to stumble”**- means to cause harm to a child by words, actions, or bad example.

C. Despising them will swiftly bring this offense to God’ ears –

Matthew 18:10 *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”*

1. **“Despise”** – means to regard as unimportant.
2. **Question:** Do you value your children eternal well-being?

THINK, PRAY and OBEY:

1. Father, turn me around from my sin and forgive my sinful life for with you died for on the cross.
2. Jesus, show me how to humble myself so I can follow you.
3. Holy Spirit, heal me of my infirmities so I can help others find healing in thee.

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