



(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 9:30-37)

“Like Little Children”

The story of the disciples arguing over “who is the greatest” is a wonderful lesson in humility.

Oftentimes, the Gospels take a phrase or word of Jesus and give it a wider, more significant meaning. Such is true with the phrase “little ones” – we can take it to encompass all those who are seen as “small” or “little” in the eyes of others – not just children. Jesus uses this phrase to point to the downcast of society... those without hope... those sinned against... the oppressed... the forgotten. These are the “little ones” who continually surround Jesus. These were those for whom He continually cries out.

These were the “little ones” whom He embraced.

Jesus’ mission was always one which focused on people. His call to repentance was much more than just a turning away from sin. It was a call to conversion, a change of mind and heart. He challenges his people to look at the things around themselves differently, to change their thoughts and their images about God, and to see one another differently and act accordingly.

It is that same Risen Lord who continues to warn us not to let our hunger for material wealth or status blind and deafen us to the needs of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Salvation is an exodus experience. It is a movement from being imprisoned to being set free, from darkness to light, from fear to trust, from ignorance to

understanding. It is a journey from self-concern to the humility of caring for the little ones, the least of our brothers and sisters. And this has everything to do with the Kingdom of God.



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