

Sermon: "SITTING AT THE FEET OF OUR CHILDREN"

Bible Verses: LUKE 18:9-27

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(Luke 10:21) "At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

(Matthew 18:1-4 NIV) "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³ And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

(Luke 18:16-17 NIV) "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

QUESTION: What does it mean to enter and receive the kingdom of God as a little child?

A. The #1 Rule of Scripture Interpretation is _____.

1. THE VERSES ABOVE

(Luke 18:9-14) "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: {10} "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. {11} The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. {12} I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' {13} "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' {14} "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'"

2. THE VERSES BELOW

(Luke 18:18-24) "A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" {19} "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. {20} You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" {21} "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. {22} When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." {23} When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. {24} Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

B. WHAT IS IT WITH CHILDREN ANYWAY?

1. Children have little _____

(Luke 18:9, 11-12) "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ... The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. {12} I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'"

2. Children have very few _____

(Luke 18:22-23) "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." {23} When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth."

3. Children have almost no _____

C. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHILDLIKE? A "CHILD" of Christ will:

1. Play more and _____ less

2. _____ more and remember less

3. _____ more and quit less

4. _____ more and doubt less

5. _____ more and own less