Sermon Notes – 07.02.2023 – Commands of Jesus – Do Not Despise Childlike Believers

Don't Look Down on These Little Ones – God Accepts Them & Watches Over Them

Matthew 18:10-14 "**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. 11 ["For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.] 12 "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? 13 "If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14 "**So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.**

Child-like Faith " – "unless you are converted and become like children"

Matthew 18:2-6 "And **He called a child to Himself and set him before them**, 3 and said, "**Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.** 4 "**Whoever then humbles himself as this child**, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; 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. [Remember Matthew 25:31ff]

"Converted" – "Turned, Turn Yourself" [From their ideas about greatness]

> "They must lay aside their ambitious views and their pride and be willing to occupy their proper station - a very lowly one." ~ Albert Barnes

Humility and Greatness - "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me"

Receiving the Child-like in Jesus' Name and Receiving "Him"

Mark 9:35-37 "Sitting down, He called the twelve and *said to them, "**If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."** 36 Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, 37 "**Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me**; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me."

The One who is Least is the One Who is Great

Luke 9:47-48 "But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side, 48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for **the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great."**

What is Child-like Faith?

"These little ones who believe in Me"

"Little ones" – Small, lesser / "Who Believe" - Entrust their spiritual wellbeing

They Simply Receive Him / Believe in His Name

John 1:12 **But as many as received Him**, to them **He gave the right to become children of God,** ***even*** **to those who believe in His name**,

My Desire for Greatness Needs to be the Same as My Desire to Humbly be His Child.

We Believe in an Approachable God – I am Simply His Child

Acts 17:29 "**Being then the children of God,** we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

Think of the Simplicity of the Lord's Prayer

The Blessing of Jesus on Children and the Child-like – Many Warnings to the Puffed Up Proud

Matthew 19:13-14 Then *some* **children were brought to Him** so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for **the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."**

Mark 10:15 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of **God like a child** will not enter it *at all.*"

There is so much more that Jesus taught us about faith in Him. We are called to maturity.

Ephesians 4:11-16 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 **until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.** 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 **but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all** ***aspects*** **into Him who is the head,** ***even*** **Christ**, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, **causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**

Important to Keep a Core Purity and Simplicity that that is About Jesus, Not Me

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; **it does not seek its own**, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered,* 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, **believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things**.