

LUKE I Jesus and the Little Children Text: Luke 18:15–17

For of such is the Kingdom of God

—Bill Turner

Introduction:

1. **We marvel at the stars, the planets, the deep space galaxies and nebulae...**
 - a. And how they display the amazing creative power of God's intelligent design
 - b. But They cannot compare to the wonder of a human child.
 2. **Almost sounds too incredible to be true—but the soul survives the stars**
 - a. Stars and galaxies are temporary—>the soul is eternal
 - b. This material world is temporary—>the spiritual world is eternal
 - c. We Were NOT created in the image of Molecules—but in the Image of God...
Who placed within us a Spirit which will last forever!
"Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him" (Zechariah 12:1) See: Dan 12:3; Psalm 147:3
 3. **This is one of the most touching scenes in the life of Jesus...**
 - a. And He uses it as a beautiful teachable moment for all the whole world to see
 - b. God does not look upon the status of a person, He looks upon the heart
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I. BLESSING THE LITTLE CHILDREN

A. THOSE WHO BROUGHT THE LITTLE CHILDREN

1. These would be their parents, mother and father, grandparents, loved ones
2. It was common for parents to bring their children to a Rabbi to be blessed
3. The way the OT patriarchs laid their hands on their children to bless them.
–To PRAY for them (Matthew 19:13)
–To BLESS them (Mark 10:16)

B. THERE ARE THE DISCIPLES

1. The disciples *probably* think they are helping Jesus...
 - a) Jesus has important work to do
 - b) Hasn't He been telling them that He was going to Jerusalem where He would be rejected by the chief priests, mocked and scourged and crucified.
2. The disciples don't want Jesus hindered by these needless interruptions
 - a) They step in as gate-keepers and decide who is allowed access to Jesus

C. THERE IS JESUS

1. **Jesus was not pleased with the disciples!**
 - a) Mark says He was "greatly displeased"! (Mk 10:14)
2. **He rebukes them for preventing the little children from seeing Him**
 - a) They were NOT the ones to decide who had access to Jesus
3. **Not everyone loves the little children—but Jesus does!**
He calls the little children to Him and blessed them (Mark 10:16)

D. THERE ARE ALSO THE LITTLE CHILDREN

1. **Children are usually disregarded as unimportant, or a burden...**
—But consider what Jesus says... (Matthew 18:10)
 - a) God does not look upon the stature of a person, but upon the heart
 - b) IF Jesus had time for the little children He has time for you.
 2. **But what does Jesus mean? (v.16-17) ‘of such is the Kingdom of God?’**
 - a) Not that the kingdom is made up OF children—but of those who are LIKE children.
But what is it about children we are to be like?
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II. ‘FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD’

A. LITTLE CHILDREN ARE HELPLESS & DEPENDENT— **—SO THEY LIVE IN COMPLETE TRUST**

1. **Every child born into the world is absolutely, completely, totally, helpless.**
 - a) Their Little Hands Are Empty Like a Beggar
 - b) They are completely dependent on the love and care of someone else for everything
 - c) The trust they have in their mother & father for providing what they need is absolute
2. **We are children of God—and should have complete child-like trust in Him**
 - a) From the Air we breathe, the food we eat, sun and rain and seasons
 - b) Every good and perfect gift is from above

B. LITTLE CHILDREN ARE INNOCENT

1. **They have a pure heart—that is why they are so close to God**
 - a) They have not lived long enough to learn prejudice...
 - b) They are not smart enough to learn malice or manipulation
2. **They have hearts of Joy and Love — because their heart is pure**
—Just as we are to be pure in heart (Titus 1:15)
 - a) STORY: A children’s Bible class teacher asked the kids what marriage was.
 - b) One little girl said, “a Christian can have only one wife. This is called Monotony.”
3. **Blessed are the pure in heart—for they shall see God**

C. LITTLE CHILDREN ARE HUMBLE

1. **Another child-like quality is humility**
 - a) They have nothing to boast about.
 - b) They have no rank or status or power
 - c) They are Humble and that is why they are thoughtful & kind
2. **A quality of heart that the Lord wants us to have (Luke 9:46–48)**
 - a) They were arguing over who was greatest because of envy and selfish ambition
 - b) But Where that Come from? (James 3:14–17) It is NOT from God—it is Demonic!

D. LITTLE CHILDREN ARE NATURALLY OBEDIENT

1. **Before you laugh! Remember, we are talking about “little children”**
 - a) STORY: A little boy packed a sack and ran away from home...

(1) A police officer noticed him walking and he drove by and asked him where he was going. The boy said, I'm running away from home."

(2) The officer asked, "Why are you doing that?"

The boy said, "Because my Mom and Dad won't mind me anymore."¹

2. Little children certainly have a free-spirit, but they are naturally obedient.

- a) Their little conscience is so precious that they want to do good
- b) They are truly upset if they do something wrong

3. In their little heart their parents word is law—

—So it should be with us and God! (1 Corinthians 14:20–21 ESV)

E. LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE A SENSE OF WONDER

- 1. They have not grown cynical or bitter. They're not suspicious of everything**
- 2. They see the Light & Beauty of Nature with a glow of wonder and mystery!**
- 3. It is so precious to teach a child about God and about Jesus...**
because they have a pure heart that is already close to God

F. LITTLE CHILDREN ARE FORGIVING

- 1. Sometimes we're more demanding of our children than we are of ourselves**
 - a) we expect them to have manners and kindness and politeness
 - b) and then we discipline them for doing the same things we do ourselves
 - c) We would've forgive an adult if they treated us that way!
- 2. But little children have an amazing ability to forgive and forget!**
 - a) They Don't Hold Grudges for weeks or months or years like adults do
 - b) They aren't Bitter and Burned-Out!
 - c) Someone said: "I used to be a people person. But then people ruined that for me."
- 3. Imagine what a kinder world it would be if we forgave as a child forgives**
 - a) Did you like when your kids were arguing? —How does God like it? **(Eph 4:32)**

G. CHILDREN ARE NOT CONSIDERED POWERFUL, or IMPORTANT, or INFLUENTIAL —BUT WEAK & INSIGNIFICANT

- 1. Children are the weakest members of any society...**
 - a) There is Nothing In Which They Can Boast About.
 - b) Whatever They Are Given, They Receive as a Gift—it has not been earned
- 2. Children Are Not Burdened With Appearances or Status or Power—**
 - a) But the Disciples were > **(Matthew 18:1–5)**

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Can you see why Jesus said we must be born again in baptism (John 3:3–5)**
- 2. To Be Born Again as a New Creation—a Child of God! (1 John 3:2)**
To Trust & Obey God / To Be Innocent & Pure in Heart / To be Humble & Forgiving
with a Child-Like Faith and Love is what pleased the Father
- 3. Jesus loves the little children, For of such is the Kingdom of God**

¹ Charles Swindoll, Book of Illustrations & Quotes, p.75