Experiencing Jesus. Really: Childish or Childlike?
Matthew 18:1-10
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Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

Matthew 18:1-10: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" [2] He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. [3] And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4] Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. [5] And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. [6] "If anyone causes one of these little ones-- those who believe in me-- to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. [7] Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! [8] If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. [9] And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. [10] "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. (Matt. 18:1-10 NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ toward the destruction

_____ exchange: Whoever flip-flops the truth of God for a lie will worship the created things, such as self (will, desire, pleasure, pride), rather than the Creator who should be praised forever! Amen! Romans 1:25 (JOT)

_____ choices: If your hand or your foot gets in the way of God, chop it off…. You're better off maimed or lame and alive than the proud owners of two hands and two feet, godless in a furnace of eternal fire. Matthew 18:8 (MSG)

2. _____ your experience of Jesus

_____ enthusiasm, not empowerment: After an argument on the road, Jesus' disciples asked, "Who among us will be the greatest in God's Kingdom? Jesus said: The first among you will be the last and the servant of all." Matthew 18:1 and Mark 9:34 (JOT)

_____ toward salvation not self-help: "…unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Matthew 18:2 (NLT)

_____ significance not selfishness: Whoever welcomes just one such child because of me, it is just like welcoming me and the one who sent me! The one who is least self-centered because of me will share great significance! Matthew 18:4 and Luke 9:48 (JOT)

3. _____ to Christ

Claim the invitation: Come to me all who are overwhelmed and overburdened, and I will give you rest…learn of me, and you will find rest for your souls! Matthew 11:28, 29 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

How is God speaking into your life? Are you tired of trying self-help that leaves you empty and alone? Do you want to find the joy of being God's child? Jesus says: *Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart…* (Matthew 11:29 (NIV)) Jesus wants you to know his heart and experience his love. We cannot experience this love because we believe that we can save ourselves. Stop trusting in self-help salvation and ask Jesus to come into your heart and life. Ask, and you shall receive. Jesus died on a cross in order to love you wholly and completely! Let this love into your heart! This week, take a study guide (we have 2 chapters copied), and you will find the lesson videos at Sjpcjax.org. Join us to really experience Jesus! Begin the journey today!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message; NLT: New Living Translation