

The Chosen: part 3 Chosen to Be Cherished

We are talking about child-like faith

Children don't know what they don't know!

- They're still trying to figure out what's considered normal
- They are capable of pure love, absolute faith, and perfect clarity

In so many ways this is what it is to be a child of God!!

Matthew 10:3-5

Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4 So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

5 "And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.

It's not about accomplishments, heritage, status, or appearing the "right way"

Children usually don't care how they look!!

They just are who they are and don't worry about what others think

In this time and society, children were considered second-class humans

When people of that time thought of who was great
their minds would not have gone to children

BUT...

Jesus says a person can't enter God's kingdom without becoming like a little child!!!

This would have been very hard for people to understand!

Qualities children have that we can begin to cultivate in our own lives:

Humility - Holding an accurate view of our status before God is key

Purity of heart - There is a purity to a child that allows them to stand before God with no other desire than to just be with Jesus

Certainty of faith - Children can maintain a fierce and unwavering belief in the goodness and power of God

Simple joy - Delighting in uncomplicated pleasures. It took King Solomon a long time and a lot of misery to rediscover what he probably knew as a child:

“I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live” (Ecclesiastes 3:12).

Curiosity - Children have no problem asking questions about the things they don't understand.

Jesus shows consideration for those the rest of the world considers of little value

- He dignifies women
- He shows kindness to Samaritans
- He heals lepers
- He welcomes “sinners,”
- He praises the virtues of children
- He consistently elevates the humble

Children illustrate a purity of love, faith, humility, and curiosity

It would not only be wise to emulate
Jesus commands us to emulate them!!

Jesus is clear in Matthew 18 - There is no blurriness in translation here
Child in the Greek is paidion, which means infant, babe, or child.

Let's read verse 3 again,

Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.

As I read this, I think of what it truly means to repent and display the qualities of a child

I think of my oldest son

-He is 100% completely dependent on mom and dad for life

-He trusts us!

-He doesn't worry about his next meal, or his clothes for the day

-He doesn't need to! His father has it covered

-He has never worried about tomorrow, or the next day

This may seem naive to say these things but this is what God asks of us

TO BE CHILDLIKE!!!

As we grow older, we have to fight to keep a childlike relationship with Jesus!!

We all need to recognize that we are truly like children in the Kingdom of God.. ...and

that's a good thing!!

We bring nothing and are utterly helpless to save ourselves

Every time I try to insert my own plan or agenda it creates chaos

-I realize more and more his plans are perfect for me!!

When it comes to living the Christian life, we must remain in a state of complete dependency

If we are to enter the kingdom of God

If we are to be great in the kingdom of God

We have to become like children!!

God does ask us to do things to grow

Always with an attitude of humility, dependence, and trust in Him!!