



Blessings Of Child-likeness

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14).

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“Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence” (Matthew 19:13-15).

In this passage, Jesus re-emphasises the importance of childlikeness (Note: this is not childishness), and points out the value of such quality in gaining access to God. He had previously touched on some aspects of this in His previous teachings in Matthew 18:1-6, 14 - “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. 6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.... 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish”.

The Bible does not repeat things unnecessarily. It is when we do not understand (get it) that God repeats, to re-enforce the message. Had the disciples understood the previous message, it would have changed their attitude towards these little children, and what transpired here, would not have happened. So, it is important for us to take a closer look at what God is saying here, so as to appropriate the full blessings of obedience.

1) Obviously, the disciples thought that the mission of Jesus was too important to be disrupted by children, but Jesus did not think so. He included the children because of their willingness to receive, and pointed out that such

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disposition is what grants access to God;

- 2) Could it be that the reason, God appears to be far, is because, we have used complicated ‘adult reasonings’ to kick Him out of our reach?
- 3) Questions of their relative importance in comparison to others, are usually prominent in the minds of people, even when they are not voiced out. Their words, actions, attitudes and relationships are always assessed in relation to this consideration. In this message, Jesus addressed this head-on, pointing out that child-like humility is the hallmark to greatness in divine perspectives. “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (vs 4).
- 4) Entry into the Kingdom of heaven has been purchased by the blood of Jesus and made freely available to everyone who will accept it by faith. Although it is free, Jesus clarified the condition for entry “Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (vs 3).
- 5) Our attitude to “little children” is a reflection of our attitude to Jesus Christ. (vs 5).
- 6) The soul of every “little child” is so precious to God, that causing them offences that lead to their backsliding attract severe consequences from God - “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish” (18:6,14).

Let us humbly pray for childlike qualities that will make us Christlike.