

# Become Childish Again

## w/ Baby Celebration

Luke 18:15-17 on 2019-01-27 by Ben Deaver @ Tallgrass Church

### Don't forget:

- Gift and card for families
- Coloring sheets
- Something to give the kids

### Have a kid read Luke 18:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

### Pray

### Baby Celebration

- Nick & Lizy Johnson welcomed Theo Kingston born on June 7, 2018 weighing 8 lbs. 14 oz. & 21¼"
- Taylor & Elisha Hillegeist welcomed Elliot Don on September 12 weighing in at 7 lbs. 12 oz. & 22"
- Luke & Eva Schooler welcomed Macklan Philip on December 7 weighing in at 9 lbs. & 20½"
- We celebrate these healthy babies tonight! These couples have taken God's command to be fruitful and multiply seriously. They are proactively helping our Tallgrass Church family grow!
- One of the best things about Tallgrass Church is all the kids we have.
- *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* by Sally Lloyd Jones
- I pray over Theo and the Johnsons. Dave prays over Elliot and the Hillegeists. Ricky prays over Macklan and the Schoolers.

Bring all the kids up to the front!

### What do you think Jesus thought of kids?

- Jesus loved spending time with kids. He didn't have any of His own. He cherished every opportunity He got to hang with babies and kids.
- What do you think Jesus was like as a kid? Do you think He enjoyed time with His adoptive dad, Joseph? Do you think He wished He would've lived where He could play in the snow? Do you think He sometimes thought about what it would've been like to be born when Legos existed?
- Jesus loved kids!
- Jesus would've signed up to help with Sprouts, our children's ministry. If Jesus would've served with the kids, so should you! Seriously, get in the rotation!
- Moms and dads saw all the healing that Jesus was doing and the power even in His touch and they wanted Him to bless their children. Many babies dies before they were one year old back then.

## Why do you think the disciples tried to stop parents from bringing kids to Jesus?

- Kids should be seen and not heard.
- Jesus has more important stuff to do.
- Kids weren't highly valued in that culture, probably because of a higher infant mortality rate.

## How does Jesus respond to the disciples?

**Big Idea: Receive the Kingdom of God like a kid, not like a grown-up. We must become childish again!**

- You receive the kingdom of this world like a grown-up, but not the Kingdom of God. This is truly an upside down aspect of our King and Kingdom.

## How are we to receive the Kingdom of God childishly?

- Great at receiving gifts
- No posturing
- Not proud
- Don't have anything to offer
- Not cynical. Cynicism develops.
- Excited to spend time with their parents.
- No trying to earn things. They have no money.
- Remember when you discovered how much it costs for things.
- Childish faith.
- Childish joy.
- Childish hope.
- Childish love.
- Illustrations:
  - Recent conversation with Kate about paying our mortgage. She's willing to help with ten bucks.
  - Offering kids gifts vs. offering adults gifts!
  - Taking Maddox to Baskin Robbins.
- Babies have nothing to offer but their need for care!
- **1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation...

## How are we to not be childish?

- Selfishness
- Arguing about who's better
- **1 Corinthians 3:1-4** <sup>1</sup>But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,<sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?<sup>4</sup> For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

## How are we not to be like grown-ups?

**Thanks for your help, kids!** Kate will help me hand some things out for you.

- Here are a couple coloring sheets to go work on at your seats.
- Here's our Scripture Memory card.
- Please receive this small gift and remember how much Jesus loves you when you blow the bubbles.

## Childish vs. Grown-up Behavior

Luke put these few verses right in the center of a few stories to help teach us the difference between receiving the Kingdom of God like a child and trying to earn it like an adult. We're going to quickly look together at three stories.

### 1. The Pharisee & The Tax Collector—"Dad, help!"

**Luke 18:9-12** <sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

**Luke 18:13-14** <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- The tax collector was like a little kid, desperate for help from Dad.

### 2. The Grown-up Rich Young Ruler—"Gotta earn my keep!"

**Luke 18:18-20** <sup>18</sup> And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'"

- How do you inherit something? You're born into it!

**Luke 18:21-23** <sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." <sup>23</sup> But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

- Somewhere along the way this rich young ruler learned the world's system that you've got to earn your keep. Apparently, he learned this at a very young age. It's what got him to where he was at. But God's economy is one of grace, not earning.
- Receiving vs. Entering (18:24) the Kingdom of God
  - **Luke 18:24-25** <sup>24</sup> Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

### 3. Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man—Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

**Luke 19:1-4** <sup>1</sup> He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

**Luke 19:5-7** <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

**Luke 19:8-10** <sup>8</sup> And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." <sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree, just like a kid would, to see Jesus!
- No awareness of social norms and expectations. Just do whatever is needed to see Jesus!

## **Irony Childish Path to Spiritual Maturity**

It's ironic that the path to spiritual maturity is to be more childish! This is the upside downness of our King and Kingdom!

**Malachi 4:5-6** <sup>5</sup>“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

- These are the last two verses we read before the 400 years of silences between Old and New Testaments.
- God's heart is to bring back together the hearts of fathers and the hearts of children!
- The family dysfunction in our society and around the world grieves the heart of our father.
- God is deeply committed to relationships between parents and kids being healthy.
- Beneath that deep commitment is God's desire to reconnect with us as His children.
- No wonder Jesus was so eager to welcome kids into His arms.
- God is so committed to restored relationship with us that He poured out His wrath on His Son, Jesus Christ.

## **God, our Father, means we are children!**

Inherent in what we call God is a reminder that we are children. We call Him Father.

- The disciples are children
- **Luke 10:21-22** <sup>21</sup>In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>22</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

## **Psalm 131:2**

A Psalm of David.

But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

## **Application:**

1. Receive the Kingdom of God childishly.
2. Help children see Jesus.

Our King & Kingdom Scripture Memory cards with study questions

## Chopping Block:

- **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
- **Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.