

SonShine School Sunday

Let The Little Children Come To Me

Reading: [Matthew 18:1-6](#)

Text: [Matthew 19:13-15](#)

Introduction:

Since it is Son Shine School Sunday, I've chosen a very special sermon for you. I hope it will be encouraging to you.

Most people who have read the Bible know that children are Special to Jesus. We read in: [Matthew 19:13-15](#) Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away.

It is hard for most people not to lay hands on children. Mary & I would love to get our hands on our grandson as often as possible. When the children from Son Shine School come through the doors in the morning, I'll hold my hand out to give them "5." Some of them won't do it, but most of them will. One little boy named Clay runs to the door excited to be here and proudly slaps that "5" in my hand. He and others will say something about their new tennis shoes or their hat or their coat before they come in. They want you to know whatever it is because it is important.

That's probably why Jesus said they were the example for us, instead of the other way around. **We need to be like them in several ways, really.** We need to be eager to please others in a good way; hopeful that good is going to come from it; and so focused on enjoying innocence that we are not beaten by struggles with sin.

Too often we are like the disciples. We think that children are a nuisance and get in the way of what WE need to do. We forget that the children are why we do what we do. It would be wise for us to spend some time with them. In fact, it can be pretty fascinating to hear what children say that could solve a lot of problems in our lives:

- A little girl asked her mother, "Can I go outside and play with the boys?" Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough." The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"
- A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."
- One seven-year-old girl told her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," the young lady admitted, "but three girls helped me catch him."

Children are important to us and to God. So, today, I'd like to take a few minutes and talk about why they are important.

1. To Such Belongs The Kingdom Of Heaven

[Matthew 18:3-4](#) Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- According to Jesus, children are examples of humility. There always seems to be exceptions to rules, but we need some basic characteristics of children in our lives.
 - It is not hard to get a child to do what you want. Jesus needs us to be pliable like they are.
 - Children are eager to learn. We need to be like that in regard to the will of God.
 - Children are always watching adults. We need to always look to Jesus for life examples
 - Children are growing. Adults need to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus
- God's word is clear that humility attracts Him to us:

[James 4:6](#) Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

[James 4:10](#) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you..

2. God Keeps An Eye On Children

[Matthew 18:10](#) See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

- Some people mistaken talk a lot about guardian angels.
 - Listen to this again: "Their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."
 - Throughout scripture angels are depicted as servants with a message from God to men.
 - **This** passage describes a warning to those who would do any harm to children: Angels have a message from CHILDREN to GOD! Angels will not necessarily stop anyone from having their own free will, even if harm happens, but beware; GOD will know. Though some may not believe it, "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." [Hebrews 10:31](#)
 - Even Jesus said it would be better for a milestone to be put around their neck... [Mt. 18:6](#)
- Now having said all that, wouldn't it be good to be called "a child of God?"

3. God Wants Everyone To Be His Children

[1 Timothy 2:3-4](#) This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- The same love God has for those who are physically children, he has for His spiritual children! Though God has never been so concerned for our physical wellbeing as He is for our Spiritual: All along God has known that this physical will end, but the spiritual will not! So, Jesus said:

[John 16:33](#) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- It would be nice to have world peace, but Jesus said it's more important to have peace with God

- So concerning becoming children of God, John wrote about Jesus:

[John 1:11-12](#) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

- Nicodemus came to Jesus by night because of His teachings and in

[John 3:3](#) Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (Another allusion to being a child in relation to God)

- The Apostle Paul put it all together when he said,

[Galatians 3:26-27](#) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.