

Childlikeness: The Key to Entering The Kingdom, 7.26.15

Review:

1. Central Theme of the Gospel is the Kingdom. First week – “On earth as it is in Heaven.”
 - a. Gen.1&2- How it was supposed to be; Rev.19-22-How it will be; Matt.6-How it should be.
2. Last week – 6 Dimensions of the Kingdom with focus on “Established in Servanthood” and “Consummated in Hope & Freedom.”
 - a. We rule with the heart of a servant; we serve with the heart of a King.
 - b. PTSD survivors recovery quicker when they have faith in God and it breeds hope.
3. “Mark 10.13-16”
4. Pics of Jesus with children around him
 - a. Who are the kids? You
 - b. In the sight of God, you’re a child and you need to start acting like one!
5. I believe childlikeness is the most important attribute of living in the fullness of the Kingdom.

Big Idea: Only those who are childlike in both the practice of their faith and their understanding of God will experience the fullness of the Kingdom.

The Actions of the Childlike:

Yieldedness to God - Matt 6.10; “7.21”

- Pic of child with dad’s hand on his head
- Yieldedness is the obedience side of the childlikeness.
- Matt.7.24-27 – Will I yield to Jesus’ words (hear and do them)and build my life upon on solid rock or will I hear them and do my own thing and build my life upon the sand.
- Torque – the amount of force needed to get something to rotate.
 - How much torque does God use to get you moving in the right direction?
 - How much does God have to bring to bear on your life to get you moving in the right direction?
 - Pic of police with a guy in a headlock. Are you like that guy?
 - Previous pic of child with dad’s hand
- Image of the dove
- When we aren’t childlike, we resist or disregard or yield from a place of fear (I better submit or it might get bad or He might be mad).

- Scale of 1 - 5

Pursuit of God – “Matt 7.7-11”

- Pic of children running to their father

- Asking, Seeking & Knocking. This isn't a promise that we will get it automatically. In fact, it's a statement that you will not get it automatically. You have to pursue.
- Pursuit is the hunger or appetite side of the childlike.
- Intentionally pursuing God's heart & His hand. How hungry are you for God and the things of God?
 - Certainly, go to God for your needs, but don't stop there. Absolutely pray, “Give me my daily bread – the necessities of life; and don't let us be overtaken by trials, but deliver us from the evil one – keep bad things away from me and my family.
 - But also pray, “on earth as it is in Heaven.” The childlike isn't satisfied with current reality in his life or the world. He wants more of God for himself and the world. They see things on earth that aren't in Heaven and they want to change it.
 - Children are moved by the hurt and distress of others as are the childlike. They want to see God move and deliver others out of their pain and lostness...when a child sees a person in pain they ask, “daddy what's wrong with them...daddy, why don't you do something...daddy, what can I do?”
- Appetite
 - Children have a good appetite. Appetite is one of the ways doctors determine the health of a child.
 - The healthier the child eats the healthier he will be.
- Looking at it another way, Why doesn't a child want to eat supper?
 - She's sick. She has something in her body that makes eating seem less important or even nauseating.
 - Have you ever watched that happen to a believer? They caught something that took away their hunger for God and the things of God. Just life stuff – job, family, school, taking care of sick relatives, etc; More serious things - false teaching; hurt and offense at God or others; unforgiveness; repetitive sin pattern.
 - She's eaten a bunch of junk beforehand. **If you're enjoying the food from the garbage dumpster of the world, then the banquet table of God will have no appeal.** The childlike can discern between the temporal and eternal.
- How hungry are you for God; how hard are you pursuing after him? The child like are hungry

- Scale of 1 - 5

Confidence/Faith in God – “Mark 11.22-26”

- Pic of child holding His father's hand & another on dad's shoulders

- I can trust him and he can do anything.
- It's the trust side of childhood. I know I can trust him during the sunny days and through the storms. He has my hand. He will take care of me; protect me; rescue me; calm me.

- Rick Joyner's Word from the Lord about going through the storms. He was riding his motorcycle and the Lord said "Go through the storms" and when he did the motorcycle's windshield kept the rain from blinding him and though he got wet, he said it was refreshing. The Lord's word is that you can trust me through the storms.
- During a terrible storm, children derive peace from their father's calmness and assurance. If dad says it will be "okay", then the child is okay.
- Alongside this is the firm belief that God is great and He can do anything. Innate within us is this belief that our dad is strong and he can do anything.
- The childlike in faith recount what the Lord has done. They talk about His strength on their behalf.
- Scale 1 - 5

Foundational to these actions, you must absolutely believe:

If you are not convinced of the following truths, your pursuit of God, yieldedness to God and faith in God will be greatly impacted especially during hardships, seasons of questioning and times of doubt.

These two things must come from your heart. You know, that you know, that you know. It's like describing your favorite bbq place or Italian restaurant. You try to explain with all your heart, but it just seems inadequate. Words fall short, because you're trying to explain something you've experienced... something you've tasted it. Your friend hears your words and seem to "get it" but you shake your head and state, "you just got to try it."

That God is Good (His Actions)- "Matt.6.25-33"

- Pic of a dad playing with His children.
- He is for me! His actions towards me are always good.
- I may not be able to see His hand, but I know can trust His heart
- I can look at the brokenness of this world, evil and unanswered prayers and still see His goodness. The child like are able to suspend judgment when there are major discrepancies between His goodness and the bad or difficult things that happen in our life. They are able to move past offense, frustration and anger towards God into confident hope in his goodness.
- The childlike live from the vantage that there are some things that we can't and will not understand in this life, but those things do not cancel out His goodness.
 - Ps.131.1-3; Ps.139.1-6
 - "Isa.55.8-9"
 - Aren't there some things that you keep from your children, b/c they wouldn't understand it; You don't tell the 3 year old the details of having a healthy relationship. You just teach them to share, b/c that's what a 3 year old needs to know.
 - When he says, "As high as the heavens are above the earth so are my ways above yours." It sounds like he's saying, "You're 3 and there are some things you're not ready for, so trust me."

- The dilemma of Acts 12. James is killed and Peter is miraculously delivered. Why didn't God save James? The philosophers and theologians debate why? The angry and offended rail against God for fairness or walk away from Him. The childlike don't know either, but they interject, "He's still good."
- I think the two key ways to live from a place of seeing God's goodness are:
 - Gratefulness – childlike express appreciation for all that God has done and is doing! Ungratefulness is one of the signs of the End Times – 2 Tim.3.2. When I find myself in complaint mode against God, I need to stop and recount His past and present goodness to me,
 - Living in Awe – recognizing the greatness of God in every day life – seeing his handiwork in nature (intellect & beauty) to how he connects things in our lives (People, themes, opportunities, timing of events, the impressions you act on)
 - Divine appointment with Teague Mize at checkout stand
- The childlike absolutely believe He is good.

And that He loves me (His Disposition) - Rom.8.35-39

- Pic of dad smiling at His children
- I am enjoyed by God; I live under the smile of God.
- He enjoys me for who I am...His child
 - Do you know what Joy had to do to make me smile or what my grandkids have to do to make me smile? Nothing. I enjoy them for who they are.
 - As does our Heavenly Father for each one of us.
- Nothing separates me from His love ...His smile.
- The more you truly believe that He is good and loving the more you'll experience them.

Conclusion

- Non-believer: You must be born again to become a child of God; there must be spiritual b-day
- Believer:
 - Faith is cold or disappointed because you're really not sure that He is good or loving. You will always limit your pursuit of God and faith in God, when you aren't sure of His goodness.
 - Off in the weeds because you're not practicing the actions
 - Do you delight in His goodness or are you chasing down all the discrepancies.

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