

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Little Children

Matthew 17:22-18:14

Recap:

- Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ
- Jesus again talks about His resurrection, but they miss it
- A sick boy, his father's faith, Jesus rebuke

This time:

- Death, resurrection (again) and taxes
- Little children

The Resurrection - the cornerstone of the gospel

It is the reason our hope is in the next life, in eternal life

1 Corinthians 15:16-19 NKJV - And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

[Pray]

17:22-23

At some point while they're together in Galilee

Jesus brings up a tough subject

Ever have to have a hard conversation with someone?

But this tough subject is about Himself.

What has God been revealing to you about himself lately?

Servants with talents, thought he was a hard man

He reveals something new: he will be betrayed and arrested

Yet no one seems to ask who's going to do it, like they do at the last supper,
at least it's not recorded

**Again, I picture them flipping out, talking amongst themselves, shocked
Before he finishes his sentence**

**Why? Because it says they were exceedingly sorrowful
If they heard him say raised up
If they believed him that he would be**

**Why would you be so sad and depressed?
You aren't losing. Yes, it will be tough. But He wins in the end.**

Going away to a conference for a week. My kids are sad. I'm sad. We love being together. But imagine I told them I was coming back in a week and they flipped out like I was abandoning them or dying?

**What does your life look like?
Do you know the reality of resurrection?
If so, are you living your Christian life exceedingly sorrowful?
Why?
Where's your hope?**

The betrayal and arrest will come - but the resurrection is coming!

:24-27

Temple tax - normal tax for every faithful Jewish man. Others tried to dodge it.
But of course there were disputes and different angles on it, right or wrong

*Two things are certain in this life: death and taxes
In my house, we know that taxation is _____ but we pay our taxes still*

Peter says Jesus pays it, did Peter ever see it? Was he being truthful?
I wonder if it's the same root of his behavior in the courtyard later...

Jesus knew what was going on
The proverbial sneaking home at night only to find your parents waiting for you

**Jesus wanted to teach Peter, and us, something
That He was the son of God, and owed no tax
and in a sense, they were the sons of God, too**

You must be born again Nicodemus - John 3:3
And we are the temples of the living God -1 Cor 3:16

*Do my kids pay rent? Not now! Maybe in a few years.
 Why? Because they are my children.*

The sons are free!

John 8:34-36 NKJV - Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, [but] a son abides forever. "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Lest we offend them

Jesus did it to be a good witness
 It wasn't the hill to die on with them
 It takes wisdom when to follow customs and traditions

Jesus, in a sense, does a little magic trick.

Did he know the fish had the coin in it's mouth or did he put it there?
 Shiny things make good lures I here

*Sometimes we're no smarter than fish
 It's no wonder our nation is in such debt all for shiny things!*

Enough in there for Jesus and Peter

They probably didn't have a lot of money
 But God provided!

The tax didn't end up taxing them!

Peter put in a little work, but the fish paid for it, literally!

Where God guides, God provides

18:1

At that time they came to Jesus asking Him...

Something they no doubt had been arguing about behind the scenes for a while

Remember way back in Matthew 11?

Matthew 11:11 NKJV - "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

So, if JTB is the least, which one of us is the greatest?
 #1 assuming that ONE of them is even on the short list...

There's always a pecking order that has to be established

*When Jesus clearly taught that being the servant, being the least,
 would make you the greatest...*

18:2-5

A little child, set in the place of honor

If you're read ahead on the hillside, don't prevent the little children

*Children should be seen and not heard
 I get it sometimes
 But children are a blessing!*

We say we value children in our society

"May our children forgive us"

**We say we do it all for our children and rationalize
 all sorts of things that may or may not benefit them**

Side note:

*And now so much so that we won't even discipline our children
 Or tell them the truth*

*And say we value children so much we take them away from loving parents so they can be
 affirmed in their perversion that we indoctrinated them with at school, on the internet or in
 culture*

Disciplining children, in a loving way, shows we love them (skip for time?)

Hebrews 12:5-11 NKJV - And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected [us], and we paid [them] respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened [us] as seemed [best] to them, but He for [our] profit, that [we] may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those

who have been trained by it.

Back to Jesus, this little child and the disciples

Unless you become as little children you will by no means enter heaven

Children are, at least by some standards:

- Innocent
- Honest
- Helpless
- Loving
- Tender

Sure, some are know-it-alls---but that's most of us in adulthood

DGC If Peter really was to be regarded as the first pope in the way Popes are regarded by Roman Catholic theology and history, Jesus should have declared that Peter was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus makes the point that being great isn't about pomp, circumstance or position

- It's about condition of mind, heart and soul
- It's about being little
- Being small
- Being unimportant
- At least in your own eyes

Does that describe you or me believer?

- Do we insist on titles?
- On respect?
- Do we get down on the level of others?
- Do we even like little children?

*As my pastor told me once and I've come to see
That how someone treats my children is a reflection of how they feel about me*

Jesus says something deep here too...the way we treat and look at children, and in Jesus' name, is how we're directly receiving him.

Does the church love children? Do we?

How do we treat them in society? What do we expose them to? Or keep them from?

18:6-9

Famous passage

I think you can apply it to behavior towards any child

Child abuse, endangerment, etc.

But Jesus explicitly calls out “little ones who believe in Me” and “to sin”

**Directly targeting the faith of little ones
by leading them in the bondage of sin**

I bring it all the time...prayer out of schools. Perversion in.

Why do we continue to send our children to be ruined by the government?

“We cannot continue to send our children to Caesar for their education and be surprised when they come home as Romans.”

Voddie T. Baucham Jr

Being from the northeast, the Mafia

Italians, food, movies, Jimmy Hoffa under Giants stadium

Getting concrete shoes and dying a mob death would be better than the fate awaiting someone who corrupts children away from God.

Seeing the faith of my children

Knowing my own childhood

You had to convince me God wasn't in charge, and the most effective way was to get me in love with sin

Woe to the world because of offenses!

“Scandalous”

Trap, snare, impediment in the way, stumbling, because of sin

In a way, like things that might be used for blackmail

It's a huge reason why righteousness isn't enforced or liked by the world

Telling someone else to not sin would require you not to sin, too

Tough, offenses must come!

This world is full of sin, it's going to happen until Jesus returns

But when he does, watch out.

The ones who were directly responsible will have a worse punishment than those who didn't

But where do we draw the line?

How much culpability do we have?

We certainly can't just claim ignorance and put our heads in the sand

And say it doesn't affect us

Maybe it won't affect you...

But it will affect your children, and your grandchildren...

I guarantee we have far more responsibility and influence than we realize

And we need to take it to heart, and act

Another famous scripture

(although I think the last verse between gets skipped because it points at us)

Does Jesus really want us to mutilate our bodies?

Shariah law

No, but if that's what it takes to keep you from going to hell, absolutely.

Because hell is worse than anything we can imagine

Even when we read the descriptions in the Bible

Remember, hell wasn't made for you and I, it was made for the fallen angels

And it isn't God who sends us there spitefully, it's our choice - he judges our choices - our sin or Jesus' righteousness

Hell is...

- *eternal separation from the love and presence of God*
- *Outer darkness*
- *Weeping and gnashing of teeth*
- *Lake of fire*
- *Worm*
- *Torment*
- *Forever knowledge of the depth of your sin*
- *The separation it causes*
- *And i think the worst part, that you had every chance to get out of it, but now it's final, forever*

...

18:10-14

Take heed...

See with the eyes, mind, to know, experience, beware!

Ducks...Beware of dog signs everywhere (but their dog was nice)

Despise

Disdain, think little or nothing of

Why take heed? Because it's probably easy to do.

As adults. As parents. As big people stepping on little people just as a matter of size.

Deeper study on angels and rolls

But know this - God's angels pay attention to what's going on with kids

God is aware.

His judgment is just.

It will be swift and severe.

Jesus goes to sheep. They know this analogy. They're aware of shepherding.

Maybe something with cattle for us, or ranching

It's easy for us to care about our things sometimes

And hard to care about our people

Shepherd leaves 99 sheep, undefended potentially, maybe in a sheepfold

And goes out to find the one

The Holy Spirit goes out

Convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment

Why? To bring people into the fold of God

To make sons out of slaves

Adopted children out of orphans

God doesn't want any child to die

David's child, My child, Me

AIM trafficking ministry

What about you? Are you a child of God?

You aren't by birth. You are only a child of God by becoming born again, of the Spirit and the Word. If you've been hurt - God knows. He didn't do it. He's going to take up your cause. Make you the center of attention in his presence. But you have to come to him.

1 John 2:1-2, 12, 18, 28-29 NKJV - My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. ... I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. ... Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ... And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.