



can he?” (John 3:4). Nicodemus understood how odd Jesus’ statement sounded. To be born again in a physical sense is clearly impossible. However, Jesus explained, “**unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**” (John 3:5-6).

Again, Jesus’ point is quite simple. When our children are born in the flesh, we recognize that they are fleshly beings. We must learn from them. If we desire to be spiritual beings, we must be born in a spiritual way. We must be made like newborn babies, innocent in God’s eyes.

Conclusion

While we have a serious responsibility to teach our children lessons, we must never neglect to learn the lessons they teach us. Jesus frequently pointed to children when telling His disciples how they ought to live. Do you want to *be the greatest* in the kingdom of God? Imitate the humility of a child. Do you want to *enter* the kingdom of God? Imitate the faith of a child. Do you want to *see* the kingdom of God? Become a baby.



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Faithful Sayings Issue 15.49 December 8, 2013

Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

15.49

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

December 8,
2013



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Becoming Babies

By Andrew Dow

When I was young one of the most cutting insults was when someone would call me a baby. Infants are entirely dependent upon others, they cry frequently, and they need constant attention. How dare anyone refer to me as a baby! As I got older I wanted to be viewed as an independent adult, not the helpless child I once was. Little did I know that the paradoxical teachings of Jesus demanded that I become like a baby.

God’s people should never take children for granted. Children are a valuable asset to the Lord’s work and are a blessing to His people. We often discuss the need to “**train up a child in the way he should go**” (Proverbs 22:6, NASU). The importance of teaching our children needs to be reiterated to every generation that comes along. However, the Bible also teaches that we are to learn from our children.

Jesus used children as examples in order to teach adults how they ought to live their lives. While at times it can be easy to take the children in our assembly for granted, we must never

lose sight of the profound lessons they teach us. In what do the Scriptures teach us to become like children?

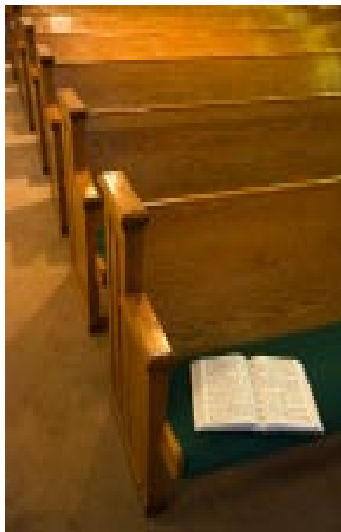
Children Teach Us To Be Humble

In Matthew 18 the disciples pose a question to Jesus. They asked, “**who then is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?**” (Matthew 18:1). There seems to be an inclination within men to make themselves

great. On some level we all desire to achieve prominence. We want to do something that will warrant accolades or something that will be remembered. Even though these men had been called to follow the Son of God, they were still men. Just like us, they had to struggle with selfish desires.

After His apostles asked such a question, it’s a wonder Jesus didn’t sharply rebuke them. To the contrary, Jesus simply “**called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, ‘Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven...’**” (Matthew 18:2-4). Christ’s response to the disciples’ question must have seemed odd. After all, how many of us look at a child and see the “**greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?**”

Jesus point was simple. “**Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you**” (James 4:10). Our Lord emphasizes this same point elsewhere. While refuting the scribes and Pharisees He said, “**Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. But the greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted**” (Matthew 23:10-11). Isn’t it interesting that as the Apostles sought to exalt themselves by asking who was greatest, they were truly humbled in the presence of the almighty God (cf. Luke 14:7-11). We must learn to humble, like a little child. Only then will we be exalted.



Olsen Park church of Christ

Children Teach Us How To Receive The Kingdom of God

During His public ministry Jesus was often surrounded by crowds of people. Mark 10 records a situation where the crowds “**were bringing their children to Him so that He might touch them**” (Mark 10:13a). While it is not always the case, sometimes adults view children as bothersome. They may get in the way of work or ask too many questions and slow us down. The disciples must have thought something along these lines because we are told that they “**rebuked them**” for bringing their children to Jesus (Mark 10:13b). This presented an opportunity for Jesus to instruct His disciples.

“**When Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all’**” (Mark 10:14-15). This teaching must have been hard for the disciples to swallow. Here they stood as grown men trying to help Christ effectively do His work. Jesus tells them that they must become like the very children they were turning away.

Jesus used these children to demonstrate a simple, yet powerful point. Like the children who went to Christ, we must go to Christ having total, childlike trust in Him. Otherwise we “**will not enter**” the kingdom of God.

Children Teach Us How To Be Born

An interesting story is found in John 3, where “**a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus... came to Jesus**” (John 3:1-2). Knowing that his fellow Pharisees would not approve of this meeting, Nicodemus met Jesus “**by night.**” Nicodemus told Jesus, “**Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him**” (John 3:2). To this confession Jesus responded, “**Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God**” (John 3:3).

This response must have puzzled Nicodemus. He asked, “**How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born,**