

Luke 18.15-30

Enter the Kingdom like a Child

Thanks Parents! Highlight of Service: Children's Message > Kids fill Pew

Dramatic Shift from Highlight KIDS > Low Point old guy talks on & on

Luke > ch 18 – ARRIVE Jerusalem ch 19 > Cross – Kingdom of God

Now/Not Yet – Present/Coming – Jesus KING – Now and Forever

Reason Jesus teaches about Kingdom > Wants People get In > DIES for it!

Last 2 Sundays > IMAGINARY People > Next Couple > REAL People

Whether PARABLES or Historical Narrative: Point is the Same

Some People will ENTER the Kingdom of God > Some WILL NOT

Today's TEXT: Real Kids, Parents, Rich Young Ruler

2 Stories FOUND Together ALL 3 Synoptic Gospels – Matt, Mark, Luke

1. Kids who were Almost Sent Away

a. Persistent Parents MCC – SS B4 Worship: Open Exercises SONG

Downstairs – Small Narrow Kitchen, Small Man/Wife, small kids

Illuminati family – Box of Donuts, back counter, small Joey GRAB 4 All!

15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them.

Lots of People around Jesus > Persistent Parents SQUEEZED in w Kids

Ancient World > Childhood NOT for Sissies > DANGEROUS Lives

50% Children made it to Age 10 // 6 every 10 kids died B4 age of 16

URGENCY of Parents bringing INFANTS > worried if they would DIE

ROME 30% All Babies DIED in 1st year / 49% kids lived to 5 / 40% to 20

// 8.3 widow who PERSISTENTLY came to Judge to give her mercy

Parents // Mrs. Illuminati get Donuts // for their Kids > I was too big!

b. Baby Bouncers 15b when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

Shock: 21st C Children's Rights / 1st C NORMAL – Kids Not Belong

SHOCK in Story > Jesus Receiving Kids > Demanding they Come!

Jesus had BUSY Schedule – Walked Everywhere – Weary & Tired

Kids Noisy and Take More Energy > Give the MASTER a Break!

v. 16 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.

HINDER > draws REBUKE of Jesus > Millstone! GNC @ Kohala Elem

2. Man who went Away

One Reason want KIDS Away > Jesus FOCUS on Important People

3 Gospels > RICH / Matt > YOUNG / Luke > RULER – i.e. Synagogue

POOR Galilean Disciples needed Class Up Image w/ Impressive Man

a. View of Christ 18 Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

No More Impt Question Person: What must I do to inherit Eternal Life?

Consult Jesus > DISTINGUISHED RABBI > Shows Proper RESPECT

All Rabbinic Lit > No Rabbi is ever called GOOD

19 Jesus: “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone”

Wants man THINK @ Goodness. Am I good? Are U Good? Is Jesus?

Jesus DRAWS OUT the FULL Implications of his words

Heart of Question: How can person BE GOOD in sight of GOOD GOD?

Give thanks to the Lord for He is Good – 1 Chron 16

Taste and see that the Lord is Good – Psalm 34

ONLY GOD can know HOW to get SOMEONE into GOD’S KINGDOM

INSEPARABLE Relation between JESUS and FATHER > BOTH Good!

b. View of Sin Man THINKS he IS Good > Jesus gives TEST!

2 Tables of 10 Comm – God 1-4 / Man 5-10: Man cannot handle 2nd Table

20 You know commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”

Strategy of Rabbi’s – Measure Self agnst God’s Holy/Good Commands

Not 10 Suggestions > Commands Binding on Us & World Today

21 “All these I have kept from my youth.” WRONG ANSWER!

Audacity! Stands Proudly! Head Held-High Bragging PERFECTION
 Bar Mitzvah Jew since Age 12 – SON of LAW > GOOD BEHAVIOR
 FOCUS > OUTWARD Conformity NOT INWARD Conviction of Law
 Jesus goes DEEPER – 6th Comm – Hate? / 7th --- LUST?? Sadly, yes!

c. View of Salvation Rich Ruler SURE Aced Exam “Did All, Have All”
 Jesus from Galilee GLAD have HEADLINER like me on Raggedy Team
 v. 22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack.

LACK? Him? Whole Life been Told that he HAS IT ALL! Good Man!

v. 22 “Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will
 have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

U have It All World: Problem! Everything but God, Salvation, Heaven

His MORALITY and MANNERS CONCEALED a COVETOUS HEART

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. 1 Timothy 6.10

RESPECT 4 Jesus Not Enough: Only way be Received is REPENTANCE

Jesus BRASH Answer to Important Man > DISAPPOINTED DISCIPLES

They LOSE Big Fish: Having HIM would CLASS-UP their OPERATION

Money is a marvelous servant but a terrible master. Warren Wiersbe

v. 24 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, “How difficult it is for those who have wealth
 to enter the kingdom of God!

COMMAND to Give Away ALL Only for Man back Then Right?? NO!

Give all away? Why? Money was his god, trusting, made it idol

Jesus want US do same? Give up everything, anything in the way

Intellectual pride, particular sin, relationship, love for self

Whatever stands in the Way of Full Allegiance to Christ, Loyalty

One Savior, One Master, One Lord, One God to Worship and Serve

3. Savior who is the Way

Major Concern Section: 14 Justified / 17 receive kingdom / 18 eternal life
IF he'd KEPT Law FULLY – WHY ask Jesus for ETERNAL LIFE?

a. Man too Proud to Look Needy Jesus NOT trying to SHAME him

Respected by Jesus Mark 10.21 Jesus looked at him and loved him.

Jesus SAW Noble Qualities in him – Spontaneous, Earnest, Open

Welcome in our Church > SPIRITUALLY INSIGHTFUL

v 23 when heard these things, became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

MOST Often SAD People COME to Jesus and LEAVE JOYFUL!

Only man in Gospels > Came to Jesus & went Away Worse Condition

Could BUY ALL he Needed in World but RICH Man was EMPTY

He was POSSESSED by his POSSESSIONS

Insensitivity of Jesus: commits Unpardonable Sin of Age: Hurts Feelings

Narrow Demand > Repent & Believe makes the man sad! Sad!!

We can't make such an influential person sad! Jesus does not care!!

Jesus "If anyone come after me, must deny self, take up cross, follow me"

Jesus LOVED him – Came for HIS BEST – but did NOT RUN after him

Jesus NEVER LOWERED his Demands to make an EASY CONVERT

Disciples THOT Jesus – Made BIG Mistake – Let him GET AWAY!

Jesus ALLOWED him to WALK AWAY > DID NOT Chase AFTER him

v. 26 Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"

MARK >> PETER - But we left everything!!! What about ism!

Disciples REASONING – If Rich cannot be Saved, who can?

Rich People can DO Anything: NO Limit to Power & POSSIBILITIES

Today – Billionaires are Suspect, Steal, Grifters > NO KINGS PARADE!

The disciples were thunderstruck at what they heard, they had assumed that just as all other things in this world were easier for the rich, so entry in the kingdom must also be easier for them.
R. Alan Cole

Rich had Plenty TIME to attend to RELIGIOUS Activities and Thoughts

Jesus Day – Respected Ones, Moses said Financial Blessing from God

Disciples: If these rich who are favored by God cannot be saved....?

Most unsaved people think that God will one day add up their good works and their bad works; and if their good works exceed their bad works, they will get into heaven. Warren Wiersbe

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:48

Every Other Religion Compromises God's Justice / Lowers Holiness

b. Real Kids are Fully Dependent

EMPHASIS Lit. "How hard it is for those who HAVE THINGS"

Our AGE of GADGETS All of US Here – Even the Poorest

Many more Gadgets than Rich, Young, Ruler

Pharisee w 'I' problem vs 11,12 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men...I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

Kingdom Surprises: LITTLE Kids Enter / Rich, Young Ruler ESCAPES

v. 25 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."

No Way to SAVE Yourself: Camel BIGGEST Animal in PALESTINE

Modern: You cannot DRIVE a Hummer thru TAILPIPE of a TOYOTA

NO SPECIAL GATE Called "Eye of the Needle" > DEFEATS Truth

Jesus is saying, in the most vivid fashion possible, that in terms of natural ability it is utterly impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Sinclair Ferguson

The violent contrast between the largest animal and the smallest opening expresses what, humanly speaking, is impossible and absurd. Wm. Lane

v. 27 he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

“It is God’s special property to find a way when there is no way”

Found in Christ – Establishes Kingdom – Invites us In – Qualifies Us

Only God can Change Hearts – Raise the Dead – Make New Creation

Only Sacrifice of Sinless Jesus can Meet God’s Impeccable Standard

ONLY TWO Religions in World: 1. MAN is Savior 2. GOD is SAVIOR 1. Make selves RIGHT w GOD / 2. JESUS makes us RIGHT with GOD

c. Jesus’ Way is Humble Dependence

Major CONCERN of Section: Whether One is Justified, enters Kingdom

Disciples Like US – Overly Impressed with MAN --- Rich, Young, Ruler

No Matter HOW RICH – How YOUNG – How POWERFUL

Another > Owns Everything – Never Ages and Possesses ALL POWER

What about Yourselves? If you will Enter Kingdom // CHILD

v. 16 “for to such belongs the kingdom of God”

v. 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Jesus does not refer to some inherent quality in children, such as their imagined receptivity, humility, trustfulness, lack of self-consciousness, transparency, hopefulness, openness to the future, simplicity, freshness, excitement, or any other idealized quality that we think children have. None of these were associated w children in 1st C culture of Jesus’ day.

Helpless Dependency, One way of Justification, No Guilt, Fully Absolved

GOSPELS >> Entire NT >>> Written under SHADOW of CROSS

Angels to Shepherds: "...good news of great joy that will be for all the people...a Savior has been born to you"
Luke 2.10,11

August Toplady’s hymn: Rock of Ages: ‘helpless look to thee for grace!’

Deepest Passion of Good Parent > Children will have MORE in Life

Deepest Passion of Believing Parent > Children will have JESUS

v. 29 And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

1983 AIM Uganda leaders – 47 yrs – Translated Bible into 8 languages

Seton & Peggy Maclure > Cambridge U - retired to England – foreign!

Trusted God > He would lead them Home > Visited & Stayed w Them

30+ yrs Mission > Not Know Where > God brought us Here? Next?

Peter & Others – may been Jealous at Jesus Attention to RICH MAN

Did Jesus Forget they LEFT their SHIPS & NETS to FOLLOW HIM?

Peter shows Commercial View of Salvation > What can I Get Out of It?!

Many Come to Christ or Church for Selfish Reasons > Need Something

Sickness / Schooling / Someone to Love / Improve Status

At age 16 saw Best Looking Girls in Church Youth Group > I WENT!

After twenty-one years of evangelistic ministry with non-Christians, I have come to the conclusion that most people come to Christ in order to have a felt need met, but they stay with Christ because they have come to believe that the gospel is true. Ajith Fernando

If you give because it pays, it won't pay! R.J. LeTourneau

ALL who Follow Jesus make SAME SACRIFICE > EVERYTHING!

Ugandan Story – MAN who finds something in SHOP

Rode into Town on Bike – Sees something very wonderful - must have

Owner “you can't buy it, too expensive” / Man “I must have it”

Owner - How much in pocket? Bicycle? House? Things? Family? Self?

Eternal Life - CANNOT BE BOUGHT - COSTS US EVERYTHING

Psalm 49 Why Should I Fear in Times of Trouble?

To the choirmaster.

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.> Hear this, all peoples!

Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

both low and high, rich and poor together!

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

I will incline my ear to a proverb;

I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.

Why should I fear in times of trouble,

when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,

those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,

for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice,

that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

For he sees that even the wise die;

the fool and the stupid alike must perish and leave their wealth to others.

Their graves are their homes forever,

their dwelling places to all generations, though they called lands by their own names.

Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.

This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts.

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;

death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning.

Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

Be not afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases.

For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.

For though, while he lives, he counts himself blessed

—and though you get praise when you do well for yourself— his soul will go to the generation of his fathers,

who will never again see light.

Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish. Amen and Amen.