

## Luke 18:17 (MSG)

***“Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in.”***

I remember about 25 years ago, I was at a Christian singles retreat in California, and while we were there, they had a Christian concert that Saturday night for the entire community. It was in an open fielded area free for all to come to. And as always with concerts like this, a pastor would speak and they would give an altar call. So, they had us single Christians who were at the retreat, be the ones up front to counsel and pray with those who wanted to give their life to Jesus. I still remember it like it was yesterday where all these people were coming forward to the altar call, and as I looked around they were going to all these people around me. So I just stood there and silently prayed for those who needed to make that decision to give their life to Jesus.

Then this, I would say 6 or 7 year old little boy came up to me dragging his little friend with him by his hand, and told me that his friend wanted to give his life to Jesus. So I then bent down on my knees to get down to eye level with this little boy, as I asked him if that was what he wanted to do. He said yes he did, so we prayed and he asked for prayer for his family too.

With that in mind, read what Jesus said that we are to do, in today's verse again. ***“accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child”*** What I just gave you was an example of coming to ***“God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child”*** Simply it's with a heart for others with the innocence of a child. This little boy didn't care what others thought about them coming forward at a altar call, all he cared about was that his friend needed Jesus. So he would come with his little friend to this six foot man and look up and tell him that his friend wanted to give his life to Jesus.

Now I could had stood there and looked down on these two little boys and lorded myself over them, talking down to them. But instead, I knelt down to their level and spoke with them face to face, even though I had every right to stand tall and look down on them while I spoke to them.

But isn't that what God did when He came down as a man to speak to us face to face. Sure He could had spoken to us from heaven, looking down on us, but in His love, grace, and mercy, God came down as a man. And the book of Hebrews tells us why.

† **Hebrews 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Or as it is said in the Message bible:

† **Hebrews 4:15-16 (MSG)** *We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's*

*walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.*

And as Paul also wrote:

† **Philippians 2:5-8** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

We are God's children, created in His image, and since we are His children, shouldn't we come to our Father as a child, instead of being haughty and demanding and giving our Dad, instructions on how He should do things in our life?

God came down as a man to live among us, to be one of us and to teach us how to live life. Let's be like little children each day and run to our Father in the morning, even if it's to simply say, "Good morning Father God" And as you would probably text you parents throughout the day, if you were a child, why not talk to God through out the day, just as a child would talk to their parents. Then at the end of the day, let Him tuck you into bed as you tell Him about your day, even if it seems meaningless. Doesn't a child ramble on about their day when you put them to bed, and don't you hang onto every word they say? How much more does our heavenly Father hang onto each word we speak to Him. Don't you think God would rather hear you, His child, ramble on, then say nothing to Him at all?

† **Psalm 27:4** *One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.*

† **Psalm 27:4-5 (MSG)** *I'm asking GOD for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet. That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic.*