

Gospel of Matthew

18:10-14

“...These Little Ones”



“These little ones” - Jesus is referring primarily to His followers or potential followers – but especially to those who are the lowest on the pecking order. His instruction to His disciples and advice to all were to “*not look down on one of these little ones*”. Our highest ambition should be to be numbered among them [18:1-5]! Ideally, we can humble ourselves with a change in perspective. Or, not so ideally, we can be humbled in a thousand different ways - crushed through the malevolence of life on a fallen planet



Of course, none of this necessarily humble a person!! But humbling circumstances tend to humble most people and make them more thoughtful, more empathetic, more mindful of their own shortcomings! It usually makes a person less mindful of the shortcomings of others, and more mindful of the sufferings and needs. *My first church beat me up – knocked much of the natural ego boosting nature of being up front right out of me!



Each and every week I work very hard at bringing you something edible, even tasty, from God's word. But that is for your sakes, not for my own ego.

God knew I needed my ego subdued, and He let those people give me a good beat-down! What they did was not right at all, but God used it to bring me down to earth and to obliterate my young man dreams of glory! After that, I don't have to care what people think. I am content if I have said what I believe God has sent me to say to the best of my abilities!



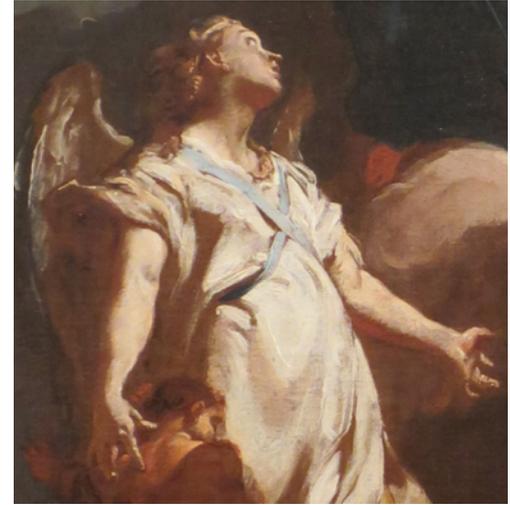
All true disciples of Christ must handle people with respect – all people – even ones with the low social status of a child!



I suspect Jesus was preparing His Jewish disciples to treat His future disciples - people from foreign lands all over the known world - with respect, not disdain. The foreigner was considered as low as a dog by most Jews. But the disciples of Jesus were not being allowed to treat such people the way other people treated them!

[Rom. 2:11/ Eph. 6:9/ Col. 3:25]

Jesus says mentions that “*these little ones*” have representation in heaven. He mentions, almost offhandedly, an angel that is “*their*” angel, (that has evidently been assigned to them as a protector) that has direct access to God in heaven! So they may not have power on earth, but according to Jesus they have power in heaven!



Caution: There is not enough information about our relationship to angels to to build a solid theology upon!

This next section shows that God cares for the person that has become lost. Their life journey is messed up, and they are lost. It happens all the time! It is actually one of the prerequisites to obtaining the redemption of Jesus Christ! You have to recognize that you are lost before you can be asked to be found/saved! It is also a natural reaction of God to go after those who are lost and confused and troubled! It is these that are the only ones who will respond to Him! **[The Lost Sheep - Luke 15:3-7/ The Lost Coin – 15:8-10/ The Lost Son – 15:11-32]**



Here we have a glimpse into the beautiful mind of God! He even cares about our infinitesimally small and insignificant individual specks of life - and He even cares about the smallest of the small among us. That is wonderful beyond words! But this worth-giving is central to the concept of following Jesus! It has a special place in the heart of God! He seeks out those that are lost to Him and saves them! That is the Gospel! I have been hugely elevated in the mind of God, but not me alone! It is *all people* - elevated *by the cross of Christ* and given great worth!



The bottom line here is that worth-giving is what we do. We are forbidden to get in Gods way of rescuing anyone to Himself!

We are not to make it hard for them by our garbage attitudes toward certain types of people! And we are not to make it more difficult for people to come to faith in Christ! Our God-given purpose is to turn them *on* to Him by accurately representing His love and kindness toward them!

