

“Great Like a Child”

GREAT LIKE A CHILD

- At that time the disciples came to Jesus, asking, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Matthew 18:1-6
- But they kept quiet... And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms... Mark 9:33-37
- An argument started... Jesus took a child and put him by his side... Luke 9:46-48

IN SEARCH FOR LAND OF ‘ER’ OR ‘EST’

NOT A NEW PROBLEM

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE

- Matthew’s Gospel to the Jews = “Asking”
- Mark’s Gospel (Peter) to the Gentiles = “Avoided”
- Luke’s Gospel to Gentiles, street Greeks = “Argument”

WATCH JESUS’ INTERACTION WITH THE CHILD AND THE DISCIPLES

- Asker = Called the child
- Avoider = Taking him in his arms
- Arguer = Put him by his side

In the Kingdom, it is not about “who is ahead” but “who is led?”

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:14

THE OPERATIVE WORD IN ALL THREE GOSPELS: “RECEIVE”

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. John 1:12-13

If you then, being earthly fathers, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts, especially the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13

