



Childlike Faith

Ignatius

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Near the time Jesus had denied a request and then verified that those who wish to be great must also be the servant of all. This was during a very public interaction with His Aunt Salome regarding her request that her sons Jesus's cousins the Apostle brothers James & John (Revelator) be granted the prestigious positions of sitting on His right and left side at His Throne during "Thy Kingdom Come." It appears that soon after this event some Disciples then inquired further upon this topic:

✝ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And He called a child to Himself and set him among them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you change and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1-3 NASB

Unless you "change" or as other translations use the term "turn" or as it says in the King James "except ye be converted" in any case the meaning is the same. Unless we repent from the Sin of selfish ambition, the desire of being the greatest amongst others simply for our ego's sake. This is striving pride that rots us morally inside as it blinds us Spiritually & hinders everything we do in our service for Christ. Remember- the pride of I was Lucifer's becoming satan fivefold downfall. (Isaiah 14:13-14)

Our Lord Jesus says we must mind our pride as a starter and further to be considered great by Heavenly standards this means we must have a humble childlike acceptance of GOD'S Will & His Word.

In short to be like a child totally open & vulnerable unable to advance our own desires apart from GOD.

Jesus continues

✝ Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

(Notice Jesus called this specific child and praised him)

Matthew 18:4 RSV

This means we must be childlike as in completely accepting and trusting of GOD'S Love and plan.

Jesus also warns:

✝ Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ 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 18:5-6 ESV

Tis bad enough to Sin but leading another by bad example or direction into violating GOD'S Word especially a young child or a new Christian at heart this will be answerable for in the afterlife said here according to Jesus.

For the record; in Jesus Time tying a heavy millstone around a person's neck and then tossing them into the sea was a well-known Roman punishment used in Galilee by Caesar Augustus (Octavian) for the crime of insurrection. Which certainly means Jesus knew those present would understand this example of leading others to Sin particularly the young or Spiritually immature is a most grievous Sin of rebellion in GOD'S sight.

Now as for the specific child Jesus called and placed on His lap: The 2nd apology of Justin & Theodoret of Cyrrhus the famed Theologian from Antioch each alike do hold that this child grew up to be a student of John the Apostle & later by the recommendation of Peter became none other than Ignatius the second Bishop of Antioch who served Jesus for 40 years before his martyrdom by Emperor Trajan. At his trial it was recorded Ignatius humbly served breakfast to the Roman soldiers sent to arrest him.

Ignatius's Greek Name became "Theophorus" which means GOD Bearer. Also from one of his 7 letters: " My love of this life has been crucified and there is no yearning in me for any earthly thing"

The Roman Colosseum crowd was stunned silent when Ignatius stood still praying as 2 lions were set free. (The 3 most important Apostolic Fathers meaning taught by the Apostles are Polycarp, Clement, & Ignatius)