

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

"Infants and Idols"

Luke 18:15-30

October 29, 2023

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20 "You know the commandments, 'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"

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

24 And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"

25 "For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

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30 who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life."

15 **And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them.**

βρέφος - an infant, a baby. Usually under 3.

• It was not unusual for parents to bring their infants to a rabbi to be blessed.

• Besides that, people were always coming to Jesus, or were brought to Jesus.

• But the disciples saw this as an intrusion – "Jesus is just too busy! More important things to do."

• **Note:** There is no infant baptism performed here. This would have been a good time if it existed. Only a touch was needed. Infant baptism has not biblical basis. Zero. It is not based on OT circumcision and it cannot be proven to be in the baptisms in the book of Acts, which were all done after people put their faith in Christ as Savior.

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"If there were any place in the Bible where we might expect to find some mention or example of "infant sprinkling" this would be the place; but that is not the case. This practice of what is called "infant baptism" is totally without foundation in Holy Scripture. There is not so much as one word in the Bible that teaches, or even implies it. And there is not a single example of it in the entire Bible. It is a practice purely of Roman Catholic origin."

- Spurgeon

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17 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

- Jesus loved children and children loved Jesus.
- Jesus then makes an incredible statement – “the Kingdom of God belongs to them.”
- What other group could you say that about?
- Infants, therefore, who have not yet reached a “condition of accountability,” where they understand their sinfulness, what Jesus did on the cross to forgive their sin, and the ability to make a choice to repent and believe, they are covered by the grace of God.
- Therefore that means:
 1. If they should die, they will go straight to heaven.
 2. They do not go to limbo or some other waiting place. Zero scripture.
 3. All infants who die are elect.

Scripture -

17 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all."

- Bottom line: If you don't become like a child, you can't enter the Kingdom of God.

What does that mean?

1. Infants have **nothing** to offer for anything. They have no status. They can perform no works. They are totally dependent on someone else providing for them.
2. You don't enter the Kingdom of God by who you are or what you have done.
3. You enter the Kingdom of God by who God is and what He has done.
4. Infants are the perfect model by the way you enter the Kingdom – totally by the work of another, by grace alone.
5. If you try to come a different way, than that of an infant, you cannot enter. So you come, humbly, and with empty hands to receive the Kingdom.

"Every one who humbles himself will be exalted,"

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Deut 1:39

39 "Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it.

Jer 2:34

34 "Also on your skirts is found

the lifeblood of the innocent poor;

Jer 19:4-5

4 "Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods, that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had ever known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent

2 Sam 12:10

23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

"The majority of persons who are now in the kingdom of God are children."

- John Newton

18 A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

- This guy is rich (18:23), young (Matt. 19:20), ruler (18:18)
- He is a leader in the synagogue, he is looked up to, seen as spiritual, religious, keeper of the Law.
- "runs" up to Jesus (Mark 10:17). He was eager to find something out.
- **"Good"** - "There is no instance in the whole Talmud of a rabbi being addressed as 'Good Master'" (Plummer). They insisted on calling God alone "good."
- Therefore if you call someone "good", you are saying they are God.
- He asks the question of the ages.
- If you do evangelism, this is a dream question.

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"It's true, isn't it, that money can choke out the things of God? There are a great many Christians who love Jesus when they make fifteen thousand dollars a year. Fewer who love him when they make thirty thousand. Fewer still who love him when they make fifty thousand. Fewer still who love him when they make one hundred and fifty thousand. Fewer yet who love him when they make half a million dollars a year. There are a great many Christians who would become deeply committed to Jesus Christ again, if only they would go broke. Go home and think about that."

- Ray Pritchard

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- Do you understand what you are saying?
- God alone is good. You call me good. I am God. He got this right.
- This 1st century Yuppie wanted a list. Jesus gives him one.
- Jesus takes him right to the Law – 10 commandments.

Gal 3:24

- 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.
- Let's see how you do?
 - The Law will expose your sinfulness.
 - All commandments Jesus gives come from the last 6 of the 10.

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- You have kept them – really? You either don't know what the commandments mean, or you don't know yourself.
 - Same thinking Paul had.
- Phil 3:6**
- 6 to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.
- 1 John 1:8**
- if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- if he has kept them, then why the question about eternal life? He was self-deceived. No security of salvation.
 - Now Jesus goes right to the guy's heart – his money and possessions.
 - He was an idolater.
 - So Jesus asks him to give it all up and follow Him. Become like an infant.
 - Can't serve 2 masters – God and money.
 - "Sell, Give, Come, Follow."
 - You have to get beyond the trinkets of this world.
 - So in actuality this young man had broken the first 2 commandments.
- Ex 20:3-4**
- 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol,

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περιλυπος – intensely sad, grieved, exceedingly sorrowful.
σφοδρα – extremely, greatly, high degree.

- This guy had it all materially – “I’ve got my pension. I’ve got my stocks and bonds. I’ve got my 401k. I’ve got my options. I’ve got my golden parachute. I’ve got my safety net.”
- He was sad because he had to make a decision.
- He could not handle the idea of giving up what he had accumulated.
- We usually only think of poverty as being a problem. Jesus told us that riches may present an even more serious problem.

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- Jesus looks him right in the eye.
- Jesus compares the difficulty to camels and needles. You are trying to get something that is just too large through a small opening. The camel needs to get trimmed down.

Matt 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.
14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- Why is it difficult for the wealthy? Because they can't get through the gate. Too much baggage. They don't want to leave it behind and enter. They are trusting in their baggage.

26 They who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"

- Everyone has baggage.
- Therefore it seems impossible for someone to be saved.

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- Salvation does not depend on a spiritually dead person ability to breathe life into himself, to forsake his idolatry, and to follow Christ.
- Salvation is a work of God in the sinners life where he regenerates the individual to do the above. So yes, rich people can be saved.

Eph 2:4-5

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3,6-8

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, You must be born again."

8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

28 Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You."

- Peter is saying, "Ok Lord, that is what we have done. We have nothing but you. We have walked away from it all. We are banking everything on you."

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- Here is the really good news.
- Whatever you have given up, walked away from, forsaken, will result in treasure in heaven and that investment will pay big dividends.
- This story started with eternal life and it ends with eternal life.
- The bottom line is, you must be willing to forsake your idolatry, to obtain something far greater than this world offers.

Matt 13:44-46

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,

46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

When you follow Jesus -
the work is hard and
the hours are long,
but you can't beat
that retirement program.

Application

1. Infants provide an excellent model for us to understand that it is by God's grace alone that we are saved.
2. The Pharisee praying in the Temple, and the rich young ruler, display the prideful, idolatrous heart of man that refuses to bow in obedience to the Lordship of Christ.
3. Self deception is the worst kind of deception.
4. Eternal life is a different quality of life obtained in salvation, and experienced throughout all eternity.
5. Never think that what you sacrifice here, will not be rewarded in eternity.