

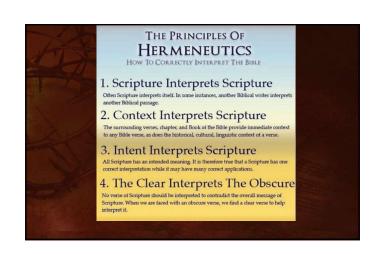
Mark 10:13-16 People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (New International Version)

Parallel Gospel Passages Matthew 19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. Luke 18:15-17 People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Observations? Jesus loves children and considers them important. The disciples apparently thought Jesus or their ministry too important to take time to bless children. The disciples' attitude made Jesus "indignant" (angry or annoyed). Jesus gives an object lesson that connects being like a child ("such as these") as a necessary condition to enter the kingdom of heaven.

"Such as These"

How do we best interpret what is meant by "like a little child?"

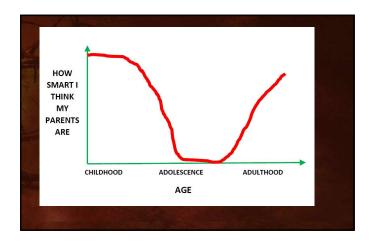


"Such as These" In What Way?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:1-4, NIV)

"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

I understand that Daddy (God) is bigger, stronger and smarter than me.



"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

I need to obey what He says to avoid danger and learn what is good.

"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. ... My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you ... Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--every good path.

(Proverbs 1:6,7; 2:1.9 NIV)

"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

I fundamentally believe that my Daddy is GOOD and wants the best for me.

"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts (Luke: "the Holy Spirit") to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:9-11 NIV)

"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

I have so much to learn so I'm going to ask a lot of questions.



"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

I forgive and forget easily.

Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them." (Luke 17:4 NIV)

"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

I am totally dependent on Him!

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13



"... whoever humbles himself like this child...."

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6 NIV)

How did Jesus demonstrate this for us?

"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:36 NIV)