

BECOMING CHILDREN

MATTHEW 18:1-5

Matthew 18:1-5

The disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

2 Then Jesus called a **little child** to Him, set him in the midst of them, **3** and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, **unless** you are converted and **become** as **little children**, you will by **no means** **enter** the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore whoever humbles himself as this **little child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** Whoever receives one **little child** like this in My name receives Me.”

God Wants Us To Be His Children

- **Matt. 18:1-5** humility v.4
- **Welcome little children** v.5 (see **19:14**)
- **Psalm 131** all the Jews knew this one

Psalm 131

LORD, my **heart** is **not haughty**,

Nor my eyes lofty.

Neither do I **concern** myself with great matters,

Nor with things too profound for me.

Surely I have **calmed** and **quieted** my **soul**,

Like a **weaned child** with his mother;

Like a **weaned child** is my **soul** within me.

O Israel, **hope in the LORD**

From **this time forth** and **forever**.

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- **Matt. 18:1-5** humility v.4
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- **v.1a** humility again
- **v.1b** not stressing about profound things
- **Ecclesiastes 5:18-20**

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which **God gives** him; for it is his heritage. **19** As for every man to whom **God has given** riches and wealth, and **given** him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and **rejoice** in his labor — this is the **gift** of **God**. **20** For he will **not dwell unduly** on the days of his life, because **God keeps** him **busy** with the **joy** of his **heart**.

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- **v.1a humility** again
- **v.1b not stressing** about profound things
- **Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; Deut. 29:29**
- **v.2 calm** and **quiet soul** **1 Tim. 6:6,8**
contentment
- **v.3 trust in the Father Gal. 4:6** **cry out**

God Wants Us To Be His Children

- Isaac Gen. 21:8-12

Genesis 21:8-12

8 So the **child** grew and **was weaned**. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that **Isaac was weaned**.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **scoffing**. 10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "**Cast out this bondwoman and her son**; for the **son** of this **bondwoman** shall **not** be heir with my **son**, namely with **Isaac**." 11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.

12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in **Isaac your seed** shall be called.

Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? **22** For it is written that **Abraham** had **two sons**: the **one** by a **bondwoman**, the **other** by a **freewoman**. **23** But he who was of the **bondwoman** was born according to the **flesh**, and **he** of the **freewoman** through **promise**, **24** which things are symbolic. For these are the **two covenants**: the **one** from **Mount Sinai** which gives birth to **bondage**, which is **Hagar** — **25** for this **Hagar** is **Mount Sinai** in Arabia, and corresponds to **Jerusalem** which **now** is, and is in **bondage** with **her children** — **26** but the **Jerusalem above** is **free**, which is the **mother** of **us all**.

Galatians 4:21-31

27 For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband.” **28** **Now we, brethren,** as **Isaac** was, are **children of promise.** **29** But, as **he** who was born according to the **flesh** then **persecuted him who** was born according to the **Spirit**, even so it is **now.** **30** Nevertheless what does the **Scripture** say? “**Cast out** the **bondwoman** and **her son**, for the **son** of the **bondwoman** shall not be heir with the **son** of the **freewoman.**” **31** So then, **brethren,** we are not **children** of the **bondwoman** but of the **free.**

Galatians 4:22-31

ABRAHAM

ISHMAEL first

born by slave **HAGAR**

according to the **flesh**

ISSAC by **SARAH**

born through **promise**

God's word and **power**

ISHMAEL PERSECUTED

ISAAC

SLAVE CAST OUT

SON OF SLAVE CAST OUT

GOD

ISRAELITES first

LAW – MT. SINAI

by **physical birth, family**

CHRISTIANS by **FAITH**

FAITH – MT. ZION

Spiritual birth, family

UNBELIEVING JEWS

PERSECUTE CHRISTIANS

LAW CAST OUT

UNBELIEVERS CAST OUT

God Wants Us To Be His Children

- **Isaac Gen. 21:8-12; Gal. 4:21-31**
- **Heb. 2:13 (Isaiah 8:18)**

Hebrews 2:10-13

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many **sons** to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them **brethren**, **12** saying: “I will declare Your name to My **brethren**; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”

13 And again: “I **will put My trust** in **Him**.” And again: “**Here** am I and the **children** whom **God has given** Me.”

Isaiah 8:17-18

And I **will wait** on **the LORD**, who hides His face from the **house of Jacob**; and I **will hope** in **Him**.

18 Here am I and **the children** whom **the LORD has given** me! **We** are for **signs** and **wonders** in **Israel** from **the LORD** of hosts, who **dwells** in **Mount Zion**.

CONTEXT OF **ISAIAH 8:18**

7:3-9 *meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son*

7:10-25 sign of Immanuel

8:1-4 Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

God Wants Us To Be His Children

- **Isaac Gen. 21:8-12; Gal. 4:21-31**
- **Heb. 2:13 (Isaiah 8:18)**
- **Mark 10:15 receive God's kingdom (rule, instruction, authority, and blessings) as a little child**
- **They know they don't know 1 Cor. 8:2**
Ask God many questions 1 Pt. 2:1-2

1 Peter 2:1-2

Therefore, **laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,** **2** as newborn babes, **desire** the **pure** milk of the **word**, that you may **grow** thereby.

God Wants Us To Be His Children

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- They know they don't know 1 Cor. 8:2
Ask God many questions 1 Pt. 2:1-2
- Remove the harmful adult attitudes v.1
- Desire to be fed v.2
- Grow v.2; 2 Pet. 3:18

God Wants Us To Be His Children

- **1 Cor. 14:20** purity in heart **Rom. 16:19**
- **Speak truth** in their hearts **Psalm 15:2**
- **Draw** us to them (lovely) **Phil. 4:8**
- **Jesus drew us** to Him **John 12:32**
- Sense of **wonder** and **appreciation** **Psalm 139:14** in awe of the Creator
- **Persistent** **Matt. 7:7-12**

Matthew 7:7-12

Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who **asks** receives, and he who **seeks** finds, and to him who **knocks** it will be opened. **9** Or what man is there among you who, if his **son asks** for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if **he asks** for a fish, will he give him a serpent? **11** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to **your children, how much more** will **your Father who is in heaven give good things** to those who **ask Him!**

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- Sense of **wonder** and **appreciation** **Psalm 139:14** in **awe** of the **Creator**
- **Persistent** **Matt. 7:7-12**
- **Be born again** and be a child of God **John 3:5**, **Gal. 3:26-27**

