



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

A LEGACY OF LOVE

Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16

Luke 18:15-17 15People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16But 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. 17I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Matthew 18:1-6 1At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5" And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. 6But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Mark 10:13-16 13People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14When 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. 15I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

I. THE EXAMPLE: OPEN YOUR ARMS AND WELCOME CHILDREN!

Mark 10:16

To Bless:

to celebrate and praise; (recognize worth)

to consecrate or set apart to God continuously; (must lead with lifestyle)

to ask God's blessings upon with solemn prayers that they may be favored of God

to cause to prosper Spiritually and materially to the glory of God

II. THE WARNING: DON'T HINDER A CHILD WHO IS SEEKING GOD!

Matthew 18:5-6

2 Aspects of His Warning...

1 - **The Blessing:** To welcome children in Christ's name is to welcome Him.

2 - **The Curse:** To lead children astray into sin is to bring ourselves into certain judgment and doom.

How we regard and direct children is reflective of our relationship to Christ.

III. THE PRINCIPLE: YOU MUST RELATE TO GOD AS A CHILD

Matthew 18:3-4

childlike qualities...Jesus told us to be "child-like" not "childish"

1 - A sense of WONDER

2 - A simple TRUST

3 - A spirit of FORGIVENESS

the challenge....

The nature and quality of the faith we are to have is revealed in the simple sincerity and believing wonder of a child.

To emulate that faith and to nurture a child in the knowledge and love of Christ is a legacy of life that has both immediate and eternal rewards like no other...

....both for the child and for you!

What legacy are you building?