

100 Bible Stories

71. Jesus Blesses the Children

Matthew 18-19 (NKJV)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³and 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. ⁴Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one little child like this 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 if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! ⁸If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire. . .

^{10,13}Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." ¹⁵And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

Is Jesus addressing the disciples as believers or as future apostles/pastors? (Hint: is arguing about 'greatness in the kingdom' a greater temptation for apostle/pastors or laymen?)

How does this child in Jesus' arms resemble believers? Pastors?

Is this warning relevant to believers or pastors? Does one need a stronger warning than the other?

Are children welcome to be baptized? To service? To Communion?

How are children/infants blessed in Divine Service?