

Scripture reading

A Reading of the Gospel according to Matthew (*Matthew 18:3*)

Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Childlike holiness, the way to walk

With childlike holiness, every single chore has eternal value. Childlike holiness involves putting love for God and neighbor into the centre of the heart. Every action no matter how trivial or routine, every thought and every word is carried out with this love. It is only selfless love that gives eternal value to our actions. Any deed no matter how small or insignificant if carried out with great love is appreciated by God who is love personified. *By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:35).* If I give up all my possessions and even my own body but do not do it out of love, it is useless (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:3).

Childlike holiness trusts that every situation will bring out good by the grace of God. A child trusts completely in its parents. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).* Childlike holiness demonstrates its love and faith in God by trusting that in every situation God can bring about good as promised in Scripture. Thus, a soul with childlike holiness will be gifted with inner peace and calm even in times of great trial and tribulation. *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You (Isaiah 26:3).*

Childlike holiness sees all the little things God gives freely and takes joy in them. A little child is easily pleased. Its innocence and lack of guile means it can take joy even in little things that are often unnoticed or taken for granted. A flower, a blue sky, a warm smile, a simple thank-you can bring joy to the childlike who has greater ability to see the hand of God in even small ordinary things. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God (Matthew 5:8).* While living a simple life, the soul with childlike holiness is living, nevertheless, a full Christian life, enjoying God's gifts and glorifying God for all He has given and done for us.

Childlike holiness bears no grudges. A little child forgives and forgets readily all offences. *Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (Luke 18:16).* Jesus reminds us that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. In addition, our offerings are not acceptable to Him. *Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering (Matthew 5:23-24).* Our offerings are not acceptable to God if we hold unforgiveness and hatred in our hearts.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You say to me, be perfect as Your Heavenly Father is perfect. You show me the way to walk towards perfection of love for God and neighbor. Childlike holiness is something I can practise in my everyday life. Give the light and wisdom to see the many small ways in my everyday life in which to increase in childlike holiness. Detach me from myself so that I can become an empty vessel for the love that You wish to fill my heart. Help me in my every imperfection and weakness. Open my heart to receive all the graces I need in order that I may do everything for love of God and neighbor. May I become a true child of God by putting all my trust in His love, mercy, power and providence no matter what happens. Mary, Mother of Salvation, please intercede for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.