



Anthem: "Jesus and the Children"

Words and Music by Terry Kirkland

When the disciples asked Jesus who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like 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 18:3-4

Children innocently rely on others to care and provide for them. They trust and have faith in those who teach and guide them as they grow, so Jesus' answer to become like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven must have been astonishing to the disciples!

How do I become like a child?

Faith – by believing God will care and provide for me and by being loyal to God

Trust – by assuredly relying on God to teach and guide me so that I grow as a Christian

The second part of Jesus' answer as to who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven was likely just as astonishing as the first. Humbling oneself like a child seems the opposite of greatness.

How do I humble myself?

Humility – by freeing myself of pride and self-importance and loving others as much as I love myself

Greatness is not an achievement recognized by others but an attitude blessed by God.

from Disciple's Study Bible footnote for Matthew 18: 1-4

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I have **faith** in Your love and promises. I **trust** You to guide me each day and rely on Your love, mercy, and forgiveness. I seek an attitude of **humility** that is blessed by You. Amen

Anthem Text - Based on Matthew 19:13-14*

One day when Jesus was preaching and teaching,
Children were brought to Him to be blest.
Don't send them away, they are special to me,
For the love of a child is purest and best.

One day when Jesus was preaching and teaching,
Children were blest, on them His hands laid.
Don't send them away, they are special to me,
For of children like these is My kingdom made.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

* "Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should lay his hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" Matthew 19:13-14