

A scene from a film depicting Jesus sitting on the ground with children and a group of people in a rural setting. Jesus is in the center, surrounded by children, and a group of people is seated around him. The scene is set outdoors on a dirt path with some sparse vegetation. A red text box is overlaid on the image, containing the quote: "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Below the quote, the text "MATTHEW 18:3" is written in white capital letters.

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MATTHEW 18:3

Putting Away Childish Things



Introduction

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."
(Matt. 18:3)

"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:4)

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." (1 Cor. 13:11)



- "Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature." (1 Cor. 14:20)
- "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him." (Prov. 22:15)
- "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother." (Prov. 29:15)

Children as leaders

- The role of children is to learn and grow to maturity
- Nowadays, many parents adopt an absurd philosophy of permitting children to govern themselves - in the name of freedom and acceptance.
- "I will give children to be their princes, And babes shall rule over them. 5 The people will be oppressed, Every one by another and every one by his neighbor; The child will be insolent toward the elder, And the base toward the honorable." (Is. 3:4-5)



Easily Misled

- Children can be easily misled
- “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Gal. 1:6-7)
- Children are misled easily, but also are easily returned.
- Adults who are misled do not return so easily.



"It's not fair"

- "Yet the children of your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' But it is their way which is not fair!" (Ezk. 33:17)
- Adults do the same if they feel they were unjustly treated
- The difference should be in how we respond
- But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city." (Acts 16:37-39)



Summary

- Although there are many beautiful qualities we can learn from children, there are also some we are warned against.
 1. Primitive Understanding
 2. Easily Mislead
 3. "It's not fair"
 4. Stubbornness

