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Childlike Faith

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **May 22, 2016**

Luke 18:15-27; Mark 10:16

Introduction: Matthew 19 and mark 10 also contain accounts of this incident where Jesus made plain this most important “spiritual Principle” about “faith.” So, we’ll also look at these accounts in order to be as thorough as possible. As we know, Jesus always used parables to make clear the “understanding” that God wanted his people to get. This would **INSURE** that they would have “**FAITH**” in him and would allow him to **REWARD** them according to his **PROMISES** made in his word, written and spoken.

FIRST, we should know that since Jesus taught in “parables”, we should stick with this same method to make plain God’s truths. Next, since the parable he used in each instance was the best teaching-tool to achieve God’s goal, we too should know to use that same parable, as God’s wisdom dictates, to **REMIND** ourselves, as well as, to **TEACH** and **REMIND** others.

Luke 18:15-16, And they brought unto him also **INFANTS**, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they **rebuked** them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **Suffer (let) little children** to COME UNTO me, and forbid them not: for **of such** is the kingdom of God.

Thought 1. The first thing we need to address is whether the word “INFANTS” is the correct meaning God intended. First of all, verse 16 tells us the “little children” should be allowed to “COME UNTO” Jesus. That tells us that “infant” is not what was meant when he spoke. After that, how little can these children be? Well, since they have to be taught God’s word about his “kingdom”, obviously, they have to be old enough to understand what they’re being taught and therefore, **BELIEVE** it. So, “infant” is not the right choice.

**Infants defined 1025, an infant (properly, unborn) literally or figuratively:--
BABE, (YOUNG) CHILD, infant.**

Thought 2. Next, we know that the ability to understand whatever is being taught varies from child to child. Some “little children” have understood the gospel as early as 4 years old, or younger, believed (trusted Jesus for spiritual well-being), and so, were born again.

Romans 10:17, So then **faith** cometh by **HEARING**, and **hearing** by the word **OF God**.

Hearing defined 189, hearing (the sense (discernment: UNDERSTANDING) or the thing heard): FAME (report of great actions).

Of, 1. FROM 2. denoting reference to a thing; ABOUT.

Thought 3. Now, let’s look at Romans 10:17 along with the definitions. “So then **FAITH** comes by **report** of great actions and by understanding, and understanding (comes) by the **WORD FROM** or ABOUT God.”

Matthew 10:13, Then were there brought unto him **little children**, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

Thought 4. These truths reveal when Jesus stayed behind in the temple and was taught at age 12, that doesn't mean that he was just then, able to understand and believe the truth.

Luke 2:42, And when he was **twelve years old**, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

NOTE: And when he was **twelve years old**,.... Not that he was now, "a son of the commandment", Aben Ezra in Gen. xvii. 14. to use the Jewish phrase; or now came under the yoke of the law; or was obliged to the **duties** of **ADULT church membership**, as is asserted by some; nor particularly to **go to Jerusalem** to make his appearance at the feast of the passover, or any other feast: for according to the **maxims** of the Jews, persons were not obliged to the duties of the law, or subject to the penalties of it in case of non-performance, until they were, a **female**, at the age of **twelve years**, and **one day**, and a **male**, at the age of **thirteen years**, and **one day**; but then they used to TRAIN UP their children, and inure them to religious exercises before: as for instance, though they were not obliged to fast on the day of atonement, until they were at the age before mentioned; yet, they used them to it two or three year's **before**, as they were able to endure it: a son of nine, or ten years old, they train him up by hours...
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/luke-2.html>)

Thought 5. When we consider the subject of today's lesson, "**childlike faith**", I'm reminded of how little children, who have the ability to understand, believe, and therefore chose to act accordingly, will believe whatever someone they trusts tells them. Some Christians, and especially people not born again, have TAUGHT fables about Santa Claus, what he does on Christmas Eve, with his flying reindeer, flying from house to house and sliding down a chimney we didn't even have! Or, as I believed, mysteriously getting into the house to leave toys, etc.. And then, there's the Easter bunny, the tooth fairy, pots of Gold at the end of rainbows, etc.. I heard and believed all of it, until sometime later, as a child I realized it wasn't true! And sad to say, some adults believe that Jesus is not real either.

However, he has witnesses of his existence and love for mankind, SEEN and heard from the mouths of those who've dared to understand he's real and have "childlike faith." A few week's ago, I was Facebook with a friend rejoicing in what can be done with faith in Jesus. And a gentleman came back with the thought about what could be done IF we just had CONFIDENCE **in OURSELVES** instead of in someone who's "**IMAGINARY.**"

I paused for a few minutes, and thought about just ignoring him. Then, the Lord told me to just SHARE my testimony about going to sleep while driving my car 90 miles per hour. So, I shared about hearing him call my name twice to wake up. When I woke up, I saw headlights, and realized I was in the left lane of a 2 lane highway! So, I whipped it over to the right lane, and an 18 wheeler went by! My first thought was, "I ought to be dead!" My next thought was, "Why are you keeping me alive!?" Well, about 3½ years later, when he revealed that I'm a minister of his gospel, I accepted and obeyed his will for my life. My final point to the remark about having confidence in myself and NOT in Jesus was, "I was ASLEEP! So, self-confidence wouldn't have helped me." He had no come-back for that.

Luke 18:17, Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not **receive** the kingdom of God AS a **little child (infant)** shall in no wise **ENTER therein**.

NOTE: ...as a little child; **WITHOUT** prejudice, **pride**, ambition, and vanity, **WITH** meekness, and **humility..**

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/luke-18.html>)

Thought 1. Once again, what we see in little children, that have the ability to understand,

is they will BELIEVE whatever they're told! Jesus was keenly aware of this truth and saw it as an opportunity that should be taken advantage of. As you know, we became born again by simply believing! One excuse I heard for not believing the gospel is, "That's just too easy! There's got to be MORE to it." Whereas, childlike faith believes, and wants to be baptized.

Acts 8:25-40, And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. And the **angel** of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of **Ethiopia**, an eunuch of great authority under **Candace** queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. And Philip **ran** thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should **guide (teach)** me? And he **desired** Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached** unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain WATER: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; **what doth hinder me to be baptized?** And Philip said, If thou **BELIEVEST** with ALL thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Believest/ Believe defined 4100, to have FAITH IN, by impli., to ENTRUST (especially one's SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING to Christ).

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the **water**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch **saw him no more**: and he went on his way **rejoicing**.

Thought 2. Notice, he didn't pray for him to be saved. His baptism was because he was now saved by his faith and it was done by him in obedience to Jesus.

Luke 18:18, And a **certain ruler** asked him, saying, **Good Master (teacher)**, what shall I do to inherit **eternal life?**

Mark 10:17, And when he was gone forth into the **way**, there came one **running**, and kneeled to him, and asked him, **Good Master (teacher)**, what shall I **do** that I may inherit eternal life?

Thought 1. The first thing we see of note about this ruler is his childlike **HUMILITY** and reverence for Jesus to run, and then kneel before him! Not many rulers possessed these qualities! He came as Jesus walked along the road! Not secretly, like Nicodemus.

Luke 18:19, And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me **GOOD?** **NONE is good, save ONE, that is, God.**

Thought 1. First, we have to agree Jesus said, "there is none good, but one, that is God!"

None defined 3762, NOT ANY.

Good defined 18, "good" (in any sense): good (adj., possessing desirable qualities; promoting success, welfare, or happiness; useful; excellent; admirable).

James 1:17, Every **GOOD** gift and every **perfect** gift is from above, and cometh DOWN from the **Father** of lights...

Thought 2. The word “GIFT”, in every good “gift”, is defined “any thing given.” So, Jesus was really saying that God the Father is the SOURCE of ALL that is **good!** If anything is good, it’s good because God made/influenced it to be so!

Luke 18:20, Thou **knowest the commandments**, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

Mark 10:19, Thou **KNOWEST** the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, **Defraud** not, **Honour** thy father and mother.

Matthew 19:17 ...but if thou **wilt** (*desire*) **ENTER into LIFE, KEEP** the commandments.

Thought 1. In Matthew 19:17, Jesus answers his question about inheriting eternal Life. He says, keep the commandments. That’s it! In verse 18, he saith unto him, Which? Jesus saith thou shalt do no murder... And He also adds ONE not listed in the other two accounts: Thou shalt LOVE thy neighbor AS thyself. This was God’s commandments under the Old Covenant.

However, when Jesus died and ROSE again, God set up a New Covenant, with new commandments. This is a truth that SOME Christians struggle with, even today. So, let’s look at a few verses that confirm this truth.

Hebrews 8:7-8, 13, For if that **FIRST covenant** had been **faultless**, then should no place have been sought for the **SECOND**. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **NEW covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... In that he saith, A **new covenant, HE** hath made the FIRST old (**declare obsolete** [GONE into DISUSE]).

Hebrews 10:9, He **taketh AWAY** the **FIRST**, that he may establish the **SECOND...**

Thought 2. In order to avoid confusion about God’s commandments given under the New Covenant, John clearly states the TWO of them in one of his letters.

1 John 3:22-23, And whatsoever **we ASK, we receive** of him, because we **KEEP** his **COMMANDMENTS**, and **DO** those things that are pleasing in his sight. And **THIS is his COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 John 5:13, These things have I written unto you that **believe** on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **KNOW** that ye **HAVE eternal life**, and that ye may **BELIEVE** on the **name** of the Son of God.

Thought 3. The meaning of the word “BELIEVE” in these verses carries the understanding of a need to CONTINUE to believe until, either, we leave our body in death, or Jesus comes to take us up in what’s known as the “rapture.”

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the **word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a WHILE BELIEVE**, and in time of **temptation (experience of evil) fall away (desert, DEPART, withdraw self)**.

Luke 18:21-22, And he said, **All these have I KEPT** from **my youth up**. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet **lackest thou ONE** thing: *sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the **poor**, and thou shalt **have treasure** in heaven: and come, follow me.*

Mark 10:20-21, And he answered and said unto him, Master, **ALL** these have I **observed** from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him **LOVED** him, and said unto him, **One** thing

thou lackest: go thy way, **SELL whatsoever** thou hast, and **give** to the poor, and thou shalt have **treasure (wealth)** in **heaven**: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Thought 1. Matthew did not mention his words about “lacking one thing”. But in no account of this meeting did Jesus dispute his words and correct him by saying that he’d lied and had NOT kept the commandments. But, Matthew gives us some much needed information about Jesus’ reply that deviated from the ruler’s desire to inherit eternal life. Jesus went from speaking of eternal life to speaking of moral PERFECTION.

Matthew 19:21, Jesus said unto him, if thou **wilt** (*desire*) be **PERFECT (complete (in various applications of labor, GROWTH, mental and MORAL character, etc.); completeness: -- of full [MATURE] age,)**...

NOTE: ...if thou wilt be perfect... Wanting nothing, completely righteous (*in character*), according to the tenor of the covenant of **works**, having no evil, concupiscence, or worldly lusts... our Lord signifies it was not enough to be possessed of negative holiness, and do **no** hurt to his neighbour, to his person, property, and estate, but he must **love** him, and **DO** him **good**; and therefore, though so far as **he had complied** with the law, it was right and **commendable**; wherefore it is said by Mark, "that Jesus beholding him loved him"; had an affectionate regard to him as man, and approved of his intentions, seriousness, and actions, so far as agreeable; yet tells him, **one thing thou lackest: go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven**: not that either the LAW of God, or Gospel of Christ, REQUIRE this to be done of all men, and at all times; for though it is a duty binding upon ALL, and always, to relieve the **poor** and the **needy**, yet a man is **NOT** obliged to **GIVE ALL** that he has to them; see (2 Cor. 8:11) **nor** does either LEGAL or Christian **perfection** lie in doing this: a man may give **ALL** his goods to the poor and yet be destitute of the grace of God, (1 Cor. 13:3) much less can such an action **merit** the heavenly **TREASURE** of **eternal life**.

Nevertheless of **SOME persons**, and in **SOME cases**, it **has been required**, that they part with ALL their worldly substance, for the sake of Christ and his Gospel; as the **apostles** were called to leave ALL and follow Christ, as this man was also...

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=39&ch=19>)

Thought 2. According to the parable of the sewer, the rich young ruler’s heart (MIND) is thorny. The principles of this parable apply today to the minds of SOME Christians.

Luke 8:14, And that which fell among **THORNS** are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are **CHOKED** with cares and **RICHES** and pleasures of this life, and bring **NO fruit** to **PERFECTION**.

Luke 18:23, And when he **heard this**, he was **very sorrowful**: for he was **very rich**.

Mark 10:22, And he was **SAD** at that saying, and went away **grieved**: for he had great possessions.

Thought 1. Today, if this same requirement was put to some in the five fold ministry about desiring perfection: being a spiritual adult, they too would go away SAD.

2 Timothy 2:19-20 ...Let every one that **nameth** the **name of Christ** **depart** from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but **also** of **wood** and of **earth**; and **SOME** to **honour**, and **SOME** to **DISHONOUR**.

Luke 18:24, And when **Jesus SAW** that he was **very sorrowful**, he said, *How hardly*

shall they that **have riches ENTER into** the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:23-24, And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto **his disciples**, How hardly shall they that **have riches ENTER** into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how **hard** is it for **them** that **TRUST** in **riches** to **enter** into the kingdom of God!

Luke 18:25, For it is *easier* for a **camel** to go through a **needle's eye**, than for a **RICH man** to **ENTER into** the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:25, It is **easier** for a **camel** to go through the **eye** of a **needle**, than for a **RICH** man to **ENTER** into the kingdom of God.

Thought 1. Some say the word "camel" should have been translated "rope", not camel. And still others; say the word needle is referring to a special "door" for camels. However, for "camel", the definition is **(a camel)!** The word **needle** is defined to mean **(to sew, through the idea of puncturing, a needle)**. So, he meant exactly what the translators wrote in the King James Version. Jesus was speaking about a literal camel and needle!

Luke 18:26-27, And they that heard it said, Who then can **be saved?** And he said, The things which are **impossible** with men are **possible** with God.

Mark 10:26-27, And they were **astonished** out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be **SAVED?** And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is **impossible**, but **not** with God: for **with God ALL things** are **possible**.

NOTE: ...with God all things are possible; even to reduce a camel to so small a size, as to go through the eye of a needle; and to work upon a **rich man's heart**, so as to **take him off** of his **trust** and **confidence** in his worldly riches, and bring him to a compliance with his will, and into his kingdom; and also to protect, and save his poor and mean followers, notwithstanding all the difficulties, dangers, and oppositions they meet with...

(Source: <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/view.cgi?bk=40&ch=10>)

Luke 18:28-30, Then **Peter** said, **Lo, we have LEFT ALL**, and **followed thee**. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not **receive manifold more** **in this present time**, and in the world to come **life everlasting**.

Mark 10:29-31, And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an **hundredfold** **NOW** in **THIS TIME**, houses ...brethren ... sisters, ...mothers ...children, and lands, **with persecutions**; and in the **world TO COME eternal life**. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

Mark 10:13-16, And they brought **young children** to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was **much displeased**, and said unto them, **Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not:** for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a **little child**, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his **arms (embrace)**, put his hands upon them, and **blessed them**.

NOTE: ...took them up in his arms,.... "Upon his arms", the Syriac version says; "he put them into his bosom", according to the Ethiopic; and the Persic renders it, "he took them into **his bosom**": all which expresses **great tenderness** towards them, and **affection** for them... (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/mark-10.html>)