

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

1-25 -15 Ken Carlton

Title: KINGDOM 101 & CHILDREN

Main Text: Matthew 18:1-14

Sermon Description: Our text today is more than fitting for a sanctity of life themed sermon and demonstrates, in its context, how basic our attitude toward children is to our understanding of, and participation in, the Kingdom of God. Jesus opens His 4th great discourse taking a little child as His object lesson and the church as His theme. The foundational truths of Christianity are thus expounded and a basic litmus test of faithfulness to Christ is thus provided. Consider 2 quotes by way of introduction in light of Jesus' clear teaching that sharpen the distinctions on the contested moral ground in the great battle of the world views. First: (R.C. Sproul Jr.) "I've argued for years that we would see an end to abortion in these United States amongst the heathen when the Christian church agrees with God that children are a blessing." Second: (Margaret Sanger, founder Planned Parenthood) "Birth control appeals to the advanced radical because it is calculated to undermine the authority of the Christian churches. I look forward to seeing humanity free someday of the tyranny of Christianity...". We need look no further than Mat 18:1-14 for the essential principles of Jesus' teaching Sanger satanically opposed. Here Christ insists the bed rock ideals of kingdom fidelity are reflected in our attitude toward children. Let us consider four Kingdom of Heaven observations from this text.

Heading: IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN...

1. OUR CONCERNS OFTEN REVEAL OUR SIN (Mat 18:1-3)

- a. The occasion – a self incriminating question
- b. The response – “turn and become” (Jn 12:36-43)

2. CHILDREN REPRESENT SUBMISSION AND SERVICE (Mat 18:4-5)

- a. Christ followers identify with children (Mt 5:1-12)
- b. Christ identifies with children (Mt 16:24-27, 25:40)

3. THE GREATEST CONSEQUENCES INVOLVE THE 'LEAST OF THESE' (Mat 18:6-9)

- a. Divine government regulations (6-7)
- b. Self government regulations (8-9)

4. RISK/ REWARD CALCULATIONS ARE BASED ON HEAVENLY VALUES (Mat 18:10-14)

- a. The one and ninety-nine
- b. Three reasons to embrace children

Close: Our world today denies the values of the Kingdom of God in violent fist shaking defiance of His Holy Word. This is clearly evident in national and international domestic politics directly responsible for (as I write this) 1,322,668,151 abortions globally since 1980. How are we, His church to respond? Consider Mat 18!

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Humility	Theme: Repentance	Theme: Childlike submission	Theme: Childlike service	Theme: Consequences of sin	Theme: Heavenly values
Verses: Mat 18:1-4	Verses: Jn 12:36-43	Verses: Mat 18:1-5	Verses: Mat 16:24-27, 25:40	Verses: Mat 18:6-9	Verses: Mat 18:10-14