

NOVEMBER REFLECTION 2023

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Invocation (Make the sign of the cross as the leader prays the invocation.)

Leader: + Blessed are the meek,

All: for they will inherit the land.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 131 (pray in unison)

LORD, my heart is not proud;

nor are my eyes haughty.

I do not busy myself with great matters,

with things too sublime for me.

Rather, I have stilled my soul.

Like a weaned child to its mother,

weaned is my soul.

Israel, hope in the LORD,

now and forever.

Scripture *At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me..*

Matthew 18:2-5

(Pause for a few moments to meditate on the reading.)

Reflection *Jesus called a small child and taught a much-needed lesson on humility. Jesus says that in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven, one must become as a little child.*

The phrase “to become as little children” is the opposite of what we usually advise. We are in the habit of calling upon little children to follow the example of those who are older. Jesus did the opposite. He did not say to the little child, “Look at Peter; see what a fine fisherman he is; I hope that someday you’ll grow up and become like Peter.” Instead of pointing to older people and saying to the child, “You ought to become like them,” Jesus pointed to a child and said to older people, “You must become like that child.” What are some typical characteristics of small children?

- *A trusting spirit—Children instinctively trust their parents and believe that their needs will be met. When children set out with their parents on a trip, they couldn’t find their way or pay their fare, yet they believe they shall arrive safely.*
- *Eagerness to learn—Children are fascinated with new ideas; they love to learn new facts and to share this knowledge with others.*
- *Quickness to forgive and forget—Small children get into quarrels and squabbles, but minutes later, they play together as if nothing happened. Even if parents treat them unjustly, they are quick to forgive and forget.*

Jesus says that these childlike qualities constitute greatness. These attitudes are a pattern for us to follow in our walk with God.

<https://biblehelpsinc.org/publication/lessons-from-matthew-18/>

Prayer

Father,

The prophet Micah tells us, “You have been told what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” Today we choose to walk humbly with You. We choose to live by your Holy Spirit and to follow your lead. Help us to hear You clearly, for we do not want to walk by pride or self-sufficiency, we want to walk with You.

Amen.

Sign of the Cross

***Let Us Build
the Kingdom of God***

