

The Chosen. Episodes 3 and 4

Episode 3--Precious--Jesus and the children



Children are simple. They're appropriately awestruck by the world around them. They're wide-eyed and expectant and moldable and trusting. By nature they aren't jaded or judgmental—those qualities come with age, along with self-focus, self-reliance, self-protection, self-promotion, and self-praise. On the contrary, children (most of them, anyway) are willing to defer and to receive, to climb into the Savior's lap and be cared for, to be led and loved on. The children approached Jesus in a way we're supposed to emulate.

The children went to Jesus without anything of value to offer Him except their love and excitement to be there. He wanted to spend time with them, hug them, and heal them. He wanted to. And we are precious to Jesus too when we recognize our need for His help, when we're willing to defer, to receive, to be led, and to be loved on. We're precious when we come to Jesus with the simple expectation the because of who He is and how He loves, we're welcome, wanted, forgiven, and will be restored.

Do you embrace a childlike faith? In this episode some children demonstrate for us how to listen to Jesus. The bold and simple faith of childhood is on display. They are naturally entranced by His Kindness and gentleness with them; and they learn a great deal from His simple message of love and grace. This episode is all about Jesus and the kids.

Scriptural References

Mark 10:14; Matthew 18:3-5; Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (The Shema Prayer); Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19; Luke 18:15-17 (Let the children come to me); Mark 10:14; Matthew 6:9-15 (Jesus calls and sends Apostles); Matthew 18:3-5; Mark 3:13-19 (Disciples Appointed)

Characters

Jesus & the children

Reflection Questions:

- 1.) What are some of the restrictions you've placed on your relationship with Jesus? What hinders you from communing with Him more closely?
- 2.) What does God see when He looks at you?
- 3.) What are some new habits and thought patterns you need to develop in order to approach God in a more precious, faith-like-a-child way?
- 4.) Is it strange for you to think of Jesus as personable? Is it easy to see Jesus intentionally spending meaningful time with mere children?

- 5.) What does it say about you that Jesus so intentionally made time for children? What about the amount of time that he spent with them?
- 6.) It was easy for Abigail to tell her friends about Jesus- how easy is it for you?
- 7.) Jesus was both playful and purposeful as He related to the children?
- 8.) What does that say about how we are to relate to others?
- 9.) In this episode, Jesus is seen praying routinely (meal times, bed time) and passionately. What is your prayer life like? How does this portrayal of Jesus' prayers encourage you?
- 10.) What would it take for you to trust Jesus afresh- with the absolute faith of a child?

Quotable Quotes

"I didn't see a sword or anything like that, so I don't think he'd kill us." [Abigail reassures Joshua].

"And he seemed nice. Do you have a sword, just in case?"

"Is your father rich?" [Joshua]

"That is a question for another time." [Jesus]

"I hope my next students ask the same questions. I hope when the time comes, they will tell others about me like you have. [Jesus]

Episode 4—REPENT--The Rock on Which it Is Built



Jesus was calling for heart change. Radical inward transformation was the price of kingdom admission. Nothing more. Nothing less. And it just so happened that a disastrous night of fishing, followed by a boatload of revelation (pun intended) set the stage for Simon to experience just that.

During this episode, we see Jesus teach about what it means to be fishers of men- and trust that God will take care of us. In this emotional episode some fishermen, who can't pay the heavy Roman taxes, are at the end of their ropes. Business is abysmal; an attempted deal with officials has gone badly, and they know that prison is imminent. They need a miracle—and then they encounter an itinerant teacher. He tells them He will refine their careers: they will catch no more fish, but men.

Scriptural References

Matthew 13:47-53 (Parable of the Net and other parables); Matthew 4:18-22; Matthew 3:1-7; Luke 8:10; Luke 5:1-11 (The Call of Simon) ; John 1:29-34; 35-51 (Andrew hears John & finds Simon) ; John 3:1-12 (John the Baptist); John 21 (Miraculous Catch)

Characters

Jesus, Matthew, James and John, Andrew and Simon Peter, Nicodemus, John the Baptist, Joseph of Arimathea, Zebedee.

Reflection Questions:

- 1.) Describe your first “Follow Me” moment with Jesus.
- 2.) What incident in your life incited radical inward transformation? Would you regard it as a miracle?
- 3.) Repentance fosters humility and surrender, so what can you repent of?
- 4.) Jesus provided for Simon’s physical needs, but the miracle was more than that. He changed Simon’s mindset, called him to something more!
- 5.) Not to riches, but to spreading the good news for the sake of others’ souls. What soul work have we been called to?
- 6.) John the Baptist was considered a heretic, and crazy. If the religious leaders of Jesus’ day were constantly missing the point, is it possible that we are missing some of the same of the main points in our Christian culture?
- 7.) Share a moment in your life where the miracle of the fish has metaphorically happened to you. When you’ve thought there was absolutely no way that something would work, but God made it happen.
- 8.) What else has been revealed about Matthew’s character? What do you think about the portrayal of him seeing Jesus at the lake?
- 9.) Why did Nicodemus want to know if John had performed miracles? What did he suspect?
- 10.) How did it feel to see Zebedee encourage his sons to follow Jesus? Who encouraged you?
- 11.) During the episode, why were Andrew & Eden (the character of Simon’s wife) more full of confidence than Simon was during the trials they faced---Simon being overwhelmed by anxiety and acting in desperation? Whom do I more resemble in my moments of high stress? If Jesus were to cast his “net” into the sea of my soul and my reactions, what good or bad “fish” would He find there to sort through?
- 12.) To whom do I turn for help or relief during my losing battles—or to what? Which is more real to me: the sources of my anxieties, or the fruits that come from my times with God? Why?
- 13.) Have I ever experienced something like the miracle of this catch of fish—a time when I’ve thought there was no way that something would work, but God made it happen or answered my prayer and “got my attention”? When have I felt God stimulate me to lean more on Him than on the limited horizon on my own resources?
- 14.) In the moment of Simon failing to his knees after the catch of fish, what can I learn about Jesus and his qualities or values? Do I follow Him as fisher, not of fish alone, but towards becoming one of his “fishers of men”?

Quotable Quotes

People bark sometimes too. (Matthew speaking to his dog.).
[Eden to Simon Peter] Where is your faith?

[Simon Peter] Faith isn't going to get me more fish."

[Eden] "You have not pursued the Lord lately. You're off to try to fix it again. No more talking. Maybe God can get your attention now."

References

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