

August 14, 2016

Series: Connect

Sermon Title: *God's Favorite!*

Key Verse:

Matthew 18:1 (NRSV)

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "WHO IS THE GREATEST in the kingdom of heaven?"

Key Scripture:

Matthew 18:1-6 (NRSV)

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "WHO IS THE GREATEST in the kingdom of heaven?" ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble LIKE THIS CHILD is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such CHILD in my name welcomes ME. ⁶"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

The Key:

An intention of attention

BE HUMBLE LIKE Children

Matthew 18:2-3 (NRSV) ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become LIKE CHILDREN, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:11-12 (NRSV) ¹¹The GREATEST among you will be your SERVANT. ¹²All who EXALT themselves will be HUMBLED, and all who HUMBLE themselves will be EXALTED.

James 4:10 (NRSV) ¹⁰HUMBLE yourselves before the Lord, and he will EXALT you.

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

The Vision of Clearbranch UMC is Transformed Lives offering the Transforming Love of Christ.

WELCOME Children

Matthew 18:5 (NRSV) ⁵Whoever welcomes one such CHILD in my name welcomes ME.

Matthew: 19:13-14 (NRSV) ¹³Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; ¹⁴but Jesus said, “Let the little CHILDREN COME to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

Mark 9:37 (NRSV) ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such CHILD in my name welcomes ME, and whoever welcomes ME welcomes not me but THE ONE who sent ME.”

SERVE Children

Matthew 18:6 (NRSV) ⁶“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Mark 10:16 (NRSV) ¹⁶And he took them up IN HIS ARMS, laid his HANDS on them, and BLESSED them.

James 1:27 (NRSV) ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for ORPHANS and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

BE HIS Child

Matthew 18:4 (NRSV) ⁴Whoever becomes HUMBLE like this CHILD is THE GREATEST in the kingdom of heaven.

John 1:12 (NRSV) ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

1 John 3:1a (NRSV) ^{1a}See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called CHILDREN OF GOD; and that is WHAT WE ARE.

Challenge Questions:

How can you humble yourself this week?

In what ways will you be more welcoming of children?

How will you make an intention of attention with children?

Are you a favorite?

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