



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

21 – 27 Jun, 2020

Childlike Faith

**‘But as many as received Him,
to them He gave the right to become children of God,
to those who believe in His name’ John 1:12**

‘At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?’

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me’ Mt 18:1-5

‘Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?’ Mt 18:1

† Christ answered through a live representation, ‘Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them’ Mt 18:2

‘unless you are converted and become as little children’ Mt 18:3

† To become like children, we have to convert

† Thomas Aquinas, a great saint and a great intellectual, was mostly described as childlike. At his last confession the priest came with tears in his eyes saying it was the confession of a 7-year-old

The spiritual strength of the children is their total dependence on their parents

† As the children grow, they become independent of their parents

† We are called to stay childlike in being always dependent on our Heavenly Father

† Adam’s and Eve’s sin sprouted when they thought that their dependence on the Father is no longer needed

Total dependence yields to

#1 Acknowledging that we can do nothing alone

- † When left alone, children feel insecure
- † They know they are not in control
- † Christ Himself depends on the Father in all
- † Saint Paul who was a persecutor of the Church, converted to becoming childlike in his faith and says, *'it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me'* Gal 2:20
- † The dependence in every detail of our lives knowing that I can reach nowhere without the Lord. *'The only way we will ever stand is on our knees with lifted hands'* Casting Crowns
- † Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had childlike faith even when their life was in danger. *'Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up'* Dan 3: 17-18
- † Let us believe that our Lord can deliver us from the current situation, and from the hands that might harm us and our beloved ones. But if he does not, may it be known that Jesus Christ will always be our Lord
- † Pontius Pilate lacked the childlike faith and thought he is in control. *'Then Pilate said to Him, 'Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?'* Jn 19:10. He did not acknowledge the Truth. *'Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above'* Jn 19:11a

#2 Relying on the Almighty Father for protection

- † No matter what the danger is, children trust that their parents are stronger than the situation and can deliver them safely
- † *'My help comes from the Lord, Who made Heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber'* Ps 121:2-3
- † *'The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace'* Ex 14:14
- † *'For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you'* Is 41:13

- † Mary had the childlike faith both when the angel Gabriel announced to her the birth of Christ and when she witnessed the crucifixion of her Lord and son

#3 Transparency

- † Children's dependence on their parents yields to no pretense
- † The transparency gives glory to God just as the whole creation gives glory to God by being what it is; the mountains, the plants, the stars, the sun, and all other. *'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse' Rom 1:20*
- † Children have no cross-purposes; they are not affected by the view of the world, the prejudices of the societies nor the standards of the world

#4 Flexibility and no pride

- † It is easy for children to adapt to new plans since they have no pride
- † Children are not self-centered
- † Elijah trusted the Lord when He told him, *'Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there' 1Kng 17: 3-4*
- † God called Elijah to change location and Elijah followed. *'Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you' 1Kng 17: 8-9*
- † Abraham went forth to offer his only son when the Father asked him to. He knew the Lord has a greater yes

#5 Having no worries

- † Children never worry what they will eat, drink, or dress
- † They do not worry to openly ask for what they need
- † They are sure that their Provider, parents, love them
- † *'And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours' Lk 15:31*
- † The idea of worrying about tomorrow does not exist for children. *'Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry*

about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble' Mt 6:34

Childlike Faith and maturity

✝ We are called to be mature Christians while maintaining the childlike faith, or else we will be childish

Bibliography

1. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Therefore be imitators of God as dear children' Ephesians 5:1

During this coming week, we will lift the Protestant Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية	قانون الايمان
أبانا الذي في السموات	نحن نؤمن بإله واحد
ليتقدس إسمك	أب قادر على كل شيء، خالق السماء والأرض وكل ما يرى
ليأت ملكوتك	وما لا يرى
لنكن مشيئتك	وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد
كما في السماء	المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
كذلك على الأرض	إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
خبرنا كفافنا أعطنا اليوم	مولود غير مخلوق، ذو جوهر واحد مع الأب
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا	هو الذي به كان كل شيء، الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن
كما تغفر نحن أيضاً	أجل خلاصنا، نزل من السماء و تجسد بالروح القدس من
للمذنبين إلينا	مريم العذراء وصار إنساناً، وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس
ولا ندخلنا في تجربة	البنطي، وتألّم وقبر وقام أيضاً في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب
لكن نجنا من الشرير	وصعد إلى السماء وهو جالس عن يمين الأب وسيأتي أيضاً
لأن لك الملك والقوة	بمجد، ليدين الأحياء والأموات الذي ليس لملكه نهاية
والمجد	ونؤمن بالروح القدس، الرب المحيي، المُنبتق من الأب
إلى الأبد	والإبن، المسجود له والمُجدّ مع الأب والإبن
أمين	الذي تكلم بالأنبياء
	ونعتقد بكنيسة واحدة، مقدّسة، جامعة، رسوليّة
	ونعترف بعموديّة واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
	وننتظر قيامة الموتى وحياة الدهر الآتي. أمين