

The Kingdom of Heaven

06/26/2022

Entrance Requirements

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” (Mark 10:13-16)

Only Children in Heaven

The Kingdom Series

Childlike Definition

Definition of childlike. : resembling, suggesting, or appropriate to a child or childhood especially : marked by innocence, trust, and ingenuousness childlike delight (Websters)

innocent, simple, unworldly, unsophisticated, trusting, trustful, unsuspecting, unwary, unguarded, unaffected, without airs, open, frank, uninhibited, natural, spontaneous, down-to-earth, informal.

Anxiety and Childlikeness

A recent large-scale survey conducted by British and Chinese researchers, Chinese schoolchildren suffer from extraordinarily high levels of anxiety, depression and psychosomatic stress disorders, which appear to be linked to academic pressures and lack of play.

Independent.co.uk

The Harm of Adulting!

When I was young, it seemed that life was so wonderful, a miracle. Oh, it was beautiful, magical. And all the birds in the trees, well they'd be singing so happily, joyfully, playfully watching me. But then they sent me away to teach me how to be sensible, logical, responsible, practical. And they showed me a world where I could be so dependable, clinical, intellectual, cynical.

Supertramp, "The Logical Song"

Emotional Childishness



Become a Child

Matthew 18:1-6

Unless You Change!

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,
“Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of
heaven?”

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Warning v6

If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

A Millstone



3,300lbs

Millstone

BMW 3 Series



Final Judgement

Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again

Rev 18:21

Am I making others Stumble???

If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

I'm not Hurting Anyone!!!!

Direct aggression is mostly exerted towards significant others and siblings, while close friends are most likely to be targets of nondirect aggression, either indirect (i.e. hurting someone through something or someone else, such as spreading rumors, destroying property, gossiping etc) or passive (i.e. ignoring, withdrawal, stonewalling, silent treatment etc).

Youniverse.com

Love and Complacency

Stumblers

Watch out: My Actions Count!

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers

(1 Tim 4:16)

Childlike Love

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

(John 13:34-35)

Why have people lost faith (stumble) in the church!

- They don't feel God's Presence/Love
- They have trouble finding
community

(2018 Pew Research Center)

Complacency

The Kingdom of Heaven

I'm Late, So what?

To be five minutes late is not really to be late. Late is when people start getting annoyed. They get annoyed because your lateness betrays a lack of respect and consideration for them—and so they get more annoyed, and more quickly, if they are (or think they are) your social or hierarchical superiors. Unless you present a very good excuse for being late, preferably something that is out of your control (e.g. an elephant on the motorway), being late sends out the message, “My time is more valuable than yours”, that is, “I am more important than you”, and perhaps even, “I am doing you a favour by turning up at all”

Being late insults others, but it also undermines the person who is late, because it may betray a lack of intelligence, self-knowledge, will power, or empathy (Psychology Today)

Passive Faith Killers (Stumblers)

- Lukewarmness/Hypocrite
- Lateness
- Shallowness
- Pride (Reconciling)
- Harshness
- Lack of Repentance
- Lack of Agape
- People Studying

Complacency Kills

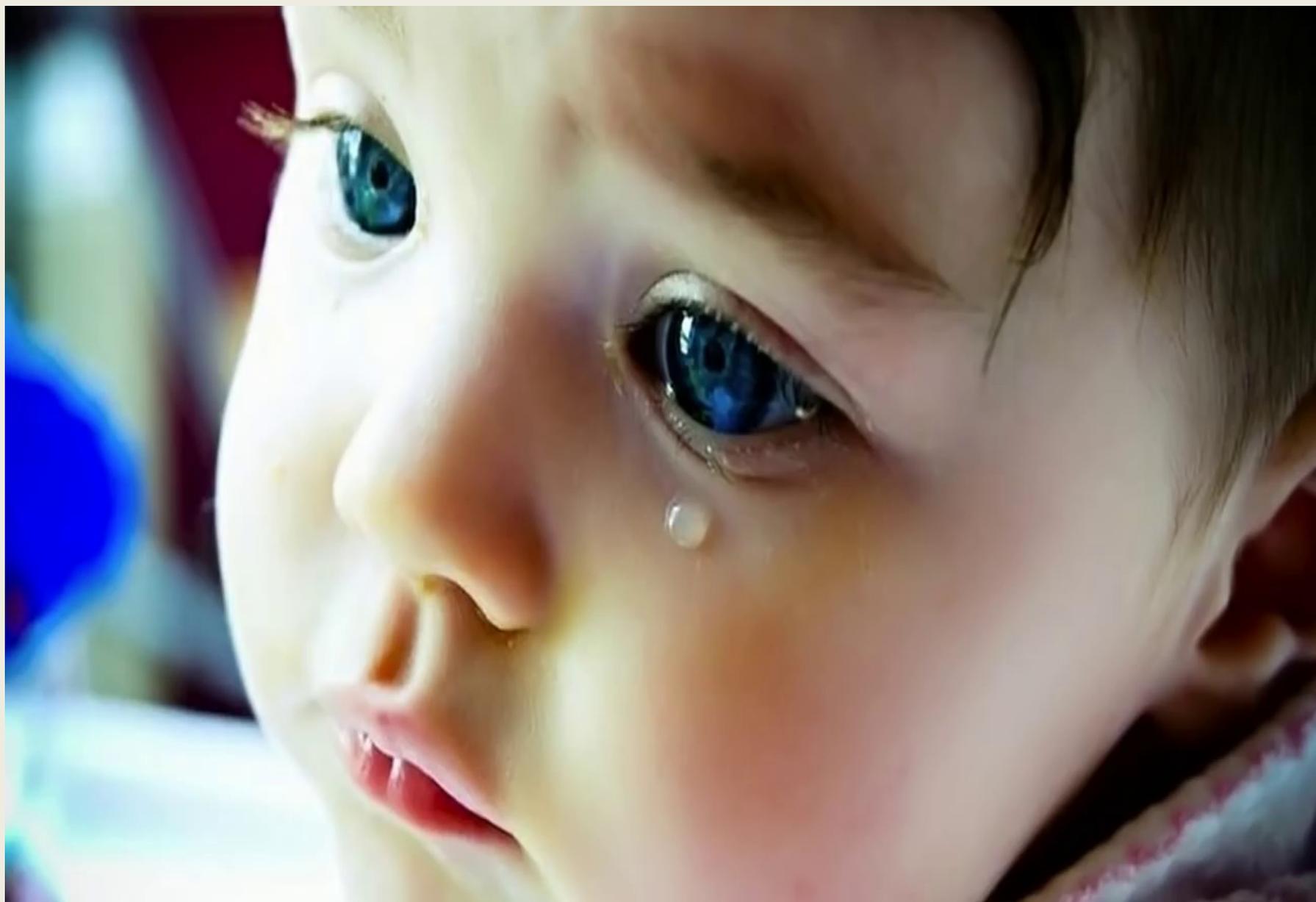
“Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
they will look for me but will not find me, since they
hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord.
Since they would not accept my advice
and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their
ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;
but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm.” (Prov 1:28-33)

The Joy of Childlikeness

The Kingdom of Heaven

No Shame and No Blame

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” (Phil 2:14-15)



A Kingdom Child Lives for Today

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own

(Matt 6:25/33-34)

My Dad is Greater than Yours!

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us

(1 John 4:4-6)

Be a Kingdom Kid (Child)

- Humility
- Dreams
- Pure Hearted
- Blameless (Obedient/No Guilt)
- Loving (Intensity)
- Low Anxiety (Father Provides)
- Honesty and Openness
- Live Each Day to the Full (Now)
- Total Trust in their Father (Safe)
- Joy/Fun Loving

Joy of Salvation



Only Children in Heaven

Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.