

Coming to Jesus Like a Child: Coming Messy

Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter.” -Mark 10:14-15.

Opening questions:

1. Think about how your small children (up to age 2 or 3) come to you when they want or need something. How, when and in what condition do they come to you?
2. Think about how you come to God when you want or need something. How, when and in what condition do you approach Him? Are you similar to your small children? Different? Why?

Read Matthew 11: 25-30

1. In v. 25, infants or small children is generally understood as a reference to followers of Christ. Why is being like a child necessary for seeing God's truth?
2. What are Jesus' requirements/conditions for coming to him? What is not required? In your own prayer life, what requirements for approaching Jesus do you live out?
3. What is it like to be weary and carrying a heavy burden?
4. (Personal) In your life, what is making you weary? What heavy burden are you carrying? How do your weariness and burdens affect your prayer life?
5. Think of a picture of yoked oxen. What do you think it means to take Jesus' yoke upon you? How is his yoke related to rest?

6. If you have time, also read the calling of Matthew (Levi) by Jesus in Mark 2:13 – 17. What do you see of Jesus' character in the Mark and Mathew passages that is inviting to you? Do you see anything that encourages you to approach him just as you are, as a little child who is a mess?

“To have no sense of need is to have erected a barrier between us and Jesus; to have a sense of need is to possess the passport to his presence.” Barclay, p. 65.

