

## Jesus, King of a Different Kind of Kingdom John 18:28-40

**Luke 18:15-17** - "...But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, & do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.'

**Matthew 18:1-4** - "...Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus took the time out of his busy schedule to receive children. And He not only received them, He touched them – He blessed them, and then He elevated them as a model of what His Kingdom is like!

We do *Kids Hope USA*, because as we seek to follow Jesus, we can't help but love & receive children into our lives, seeking to bless them, just like Jesus!

BRC is a church for children – those who are young, as well as those who are young at heart! Jesus placed a high value on children! And He set them as an example for the rest of us older people to follow!

- How do/should we value children as a church?
- In what ways should children be an example for us to follow?
- Why did Jesus consider them the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

My Kids Hope story - When I came walking down the street he recognized me, he acknowledged me publicly, he ran to me & embraced me, and he humbly received me as his mentor, without any self-centered expectations!

I believe that is the kind of child-like response, a child-like faith, that Jesus wants from each one of us! That's what Jesus is elevating here in children!

Too often in adulthood we forget what it was like to be a child - to trust even with doubts, to believe without needing to have all the answers, to accept our own shortcomings while relying on someone bigger than us, to love without expectation... These are the things we can re-learn from children!

We tend to make things about us – "Who is the greatest...". We tend to think our value is based upon our own accomplishments rather than upon our status as children! We elevate knowledge & power above simple faith!

We so easily, & quickly, lose our way when we lose our child-like faith!  
But Jesus reminds us, through children, what His Kingdom is all about!

But what does all of this have to do with our sermon text - **John 18:28-40?**

I hope we will see in these verses what happens when we lose the very thing Jesus was pointing us to when He elevated children as His Kingdom example.

- Jesus came into the world to be the Savior of it, but His own people couldn't see Him as such, and they sought to rid the world of Him!
- God's people were "more concerned with religious things, like "not defiling themselves", than with receiving the Son of God as their King!
- God's people enlisted the services of the Roman authorities, rather than embracing the One who has the ultimate authority in heaven & on earth
- Pilate was more open to who Jesus was/is than God's own people! How could a Roman governor be more receptive of Jesus than the Jews?
- But even Pilate failed to accept the truth of Jesus's identity, making a mockery of "truth" itself!
- The people of God would rather crucify a man proven to be innocent than admit their own arrogance & confess their own self-righteousness!
- The people of God had a convicted felon released (Barabbas), just so that they could go through with their self-centered plot to kill Jesus!

And we wonder why Jesus would elevate children as the example of what His Kingdom is like! We think children make a mess of things!

Too often, we as adults lose the simple truth of the gospel & the true identity of Jesus Christ, b/c we get lost in our own pursuit of self, success, and significance!

Too often we let the pursuit of knowledge trump the wisdom of true faith!

Too often we let our lust for position/power keep us from doing what's right!  
This is not what the Kingdom of Heaven is about! Adults Hope program!

May we continue to be a "Kids Hope" church, but may we also become a church with a "kids-like hope" in Jesus Christ! May we be known as a church with a humble, trusting, embracing, loving, & child-like faith in Jesus!

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