

## UNUSUAL GOOD EXAMPLES

### Matthew 21:15-16

**Introduction:** Jesus was always watched very closely by the religious leaders, hoping to catch Him in some error and wrong doing. They made fun of Him and criticized Him for about everything He did. When Jesus stopped to talk with children, they made fun of Him even then. Jesus put the critics in "their place" often and in this passage, He defends the children, even though they can be noisy sometimes and may not know how to read and write very well at times, if at all and it is true that they shout and yell out the words to the songs they are supposed to be "singing." However Jesus defended the children and if one looks closely at children it will be seen that they can be very unusual good examples.

### I. CHILDREN CAN BE CAPABLE OF VERY DEEP FEELINGS

1. Children are capable of deep repentance.
  - How often have you heard a child sob and cry with a broken heart over doing something wrong?
  - They know when they have done wrong, even when they have sinned against God.
  - How many adults of today were saved when they were still a child?
  
2. Children have a capacity for faith.
  - A child's faith is much simpler and often much greater than that of adults.
  - They take God at His Word, just as it is, no questions asked.
  - They feel what they believe. Jesus is not simply a story about a man. Jesus is Jesus!
  - They have temptations just as adults but adjust and adapt to them in their own ways.
  - They can teach adults how to believe in God and have faith in God's Word.
  - The story is told about a church having a special prayer meeting for much needed rain. A child showed up carrying an umbrella.
  
3. Children excel in love.
  - Children copy the love that Jesus showed.
  - It was an adult that Jesus asked, "*...do you love me?...*"
  - Jesus will never have to ask a child "*...do you love me?...*"
  
4. Children have courage.
  - Adults are timid, hesitant, even ashamed to talk about their spiritual lives and of Jesus.
  - Children blurt out to total strangers, "**...I got saved...I got baptized, etc...**"
  - Children are not afraid to tell others about their Sunday School class, their teachers, and Jesus.
  - Children have also taken their places in enduring persecution.
  
5. Children have patience.
  - Ever see a child in a body cast? Or having cancer treatments? Or terminally ill?
  - Children show us how to act when we are impatient.
  
6. Children are capable of quick understanding.
  - Pastors have talked with very young children about the Lord who came to the pastor wanting to be saved, to be told, "you're too young, we'll talk again later when you are older."

They come back again the next week, wanting to get saved, week after week, until finally the pastor talks to them, asking them adult questions about salvation, surprisingly, they knew all the answers, not "yes and no" but detailed answers. They knew! More than most adults.

- Age is not always wisdom. Sometimes the older we get, the harder it is for one to believe.
- Children often, are wiser than their elders.

7. Children can know the joy of the Lord.

- The excitement of a child can put to shame that which adults call "joy in the Lord..."
- Adults need a child-like joy in the Lord.
- Ever note that the older we get, the more child-like we become in some things? Maturity reveals the attitude of a child in the things of God is really the best attitude.
- *"...Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for such is the kingdom of God..."*

## **II. CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE OF RENDERING GOOD SERVICE TO GOD**

1. Some children have been chosen by God for a very special service.

- Remember Samuel and the priest Eli?
- What about the little maid that told Naaman, who had leprosy, about God's prophet?
- Or what about the little boy who led the blind Samson to the big pillars of the temple and Samson pulled the temple down?
- A little boy told his father about a friend's dad who had daily evening devotions. He started, too.

2. Little children serve the Lord by their prayers.

- Ever hear the simplicity and sincerity of a little child's prayer?
- God hears the prayers of children.

3. Children are the best missionaries and evangelists.

- They witness at school, at their friend's house, whenever company comes.
- They are proud of their Sunday School class, their teachers and that they were baptized, etc.
- To those who work with children, you do not know the good you are doing with the children but God does.

## **III. CHILDREN'S FAITH AND SERVICE ARE SPECIAL GLORY TO GOD**

1. It glorifies God's lowering Himself to be one of us when he takes a child and teaches it. For God to "stoop" to children is indeed wonderful.

2. It shows God's wisdom and sovereignty. He has bypassed the strong, mighty and take the weak.

3. It shows God's power when a child is converted/saved. For a child to become a Saint is a mighty display of God's power. Satan is defeated - rebuked.

4. Children some times bring rebuke to God's adults in their faith, prayers, simplicity, witnessing and acceptance of God's Word, simply as it is. They set the example for adults.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Workers with children are to be congratulated. Don't ever give up on working with them.
2. Children deserve those who want to work with them.
3. Parents need to be very careful when they say, "Oh, he/she is to young to know what he/she is doing.." concerning spiritual matters.
4. Jesus told those who knew about Him to feed His "lambs."
5. It is an honor to serve the Lord by feeding His little "lambs." They deserve the very best.
6. Want to see an example of how God wants our faith to be? Take a look at a little child's faith. Want to see an example of how to talk to somebody about being Jesus or being saved? Take a look at a little child who has come to know Jesus and been baptized.