

Certificate in Children's Ministry - Denmark

Evening prayer Friday 31st Jan 25

Jesus & Children 1

Weber H-R, *Jesus and the children*, Treehaus (US publisher)

Opening prayer:

You are great, Lord, and greatly to be praised. Great is your power, and of your wisdom there is no end. Men and women, who are part of what you have created, desire to praise you. For you have stirred up our hearts so that we take pleasure in praising you. You have created us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. AUGUSTINE, Bishop of Hippo (354–430)

Let us stand, raise our hands and praise the Lord. Offer a sentence of praise starting with the words.....'God you areAmen!'

Let us stand quietly, bow our heads, open up our hands and offer our confession.

Let us sit, and with open ears and receiving hands listen to God's Word and receive it.

Reading

Matthew 18: 1-6 + verse 10 Jesus and Children (Mark 9:33-37 & Luke 9:46-50)

Song:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord

(Jesus is the Lord)

Matthew

Chapter 18 – The child placed in the middle

Chapter 19 – The children brought for blessing

Chapter 25 – Looking after the King

The little ones – Matthew 18.6 – small, less, the overlooked (literally!) (mikros mikroteros)

Of such is the kingdom – Matthew 19.14 – made like these/of a substance like these (toioutos)

The least of these – Matthew 25.44 – smallest, ones lacking in dignity (elachistos)

Receiving children and looking after the King

Matthew 18 'He called a little child'

Matthew 19 'He placed his hands on them'

Invitation, Welcome & Generous Hospitality, Recognition, Healing, Serving & Blessing

Rejecting children and refusing the King

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Matthew 18

Matthew 19

Ignored, Overlooked, Denied, Dismissed, Turned down

Meanings for us and our ministry among children

View of children – real and grounded, rather than romantic and unfocussed

Understandings of responsibility for 'little/least ones'

In the practical and physical we touch the spiritual – to receive/reject the 'little and least' is to receive/reject the King

Question to wrestle with: What is it to welcome Jesus in a child?

What does God want me to do with those words today?

Reflection:

Track by Alexis Ffrench

Intercessions:

Let us stand and use our hands again, but this time to bless each other. Left and right. Remind yourself of their names. Ask permission.

Final Prayer:

May God's blessing fall on you.

May you be encouraged.

May you grow in the grace of Jesus Christ.

May we be the church together today.....a sign of changed lives. A sign of humility. A sign of people becoming like Jesus.

Amen.