

Collide: Humility of a Child

Matthew 18:1-4

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Introduction

Culture paints a grim picture of the next generation and the future they will inherit. But this weekend at Collide West, Living Water saw God do miraculous things in the youth of the next generation! Through their service to the community, worship and pursuit of Jesus, and their hearts for the world God loves, we are convinced that this generation gets the heart of Jesus and they are in fact the hope of the world! With humble surrender and an emphatic “Yes!” they are all in when they respond to Jesus. If we don’t want to miss what God is doing, we have a lesson to learn from the faith and humility of these children.

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-4 (ESV)

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Humility in Walking with the Holy Spirit

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;” (Acts 2:17, ESV)

The same Spirit of God that is alive in the most mature believers is the same Spirit that is at work in children who trust God with their whole hearts. Pastor Fawn shared a word a young girl received and offered unabashedly for our church: that we are loved by God and He has called every single one of us by name. Sometimes, when we have been following Jesus for a long time, we start to think that we have it all together and know how He works more than those young in age or in the faith. While mentorship is important, we must never grow cold to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Question #1 When was the last time you heard God speak something and answered with an emphatic ‘yes!’ to sharing it without hesitation?

Humility through Hard Things

“And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.... And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:34-35, 38, ESV)

When Jesus asks us to “turn” or to change and find the humility of a child, He isn’t asking us to be childish. Our wisdom and experience should shape who we are to be more like Jesus. But when He speaks and it doesn’t line up with what our experience says, we must be careful to stay sensitive. Experience is good, but only if we let it change us to be more like Jesus. Pastor Fawn shared the testimony of a young woman who found the love of Jesus at Living Water in a time of great loneliness and uncertainty. The peace and stillness only Jesus can bring has caused her to shift her attitude to a kingdom perspective that sees the messy parts of her story as opportunities for His Glory.

Question #2 Even when things are hard and we do not understand, when Jesus says, “Trust me,” humility says, “Yes!” Encourage one another by sharing times when He has been faithful in this, and in humility pray together over those struggles that may still be hard to accept.

Humility toward what God Can Do

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12, ESV)

We have already seen how Mary, the very young mother of the Savior of the World, acknowledged her own inability to do what God said would come to pass. Pastor Chase shared the story of a high school student who had strayed far from God, and even the thought of living another day overwhelmed him -- until the Spirit of God stepped in to take His brokenness, heal His heart, and begin to show Him a glimpse of what God can do with a willing heart. Humility is acknowledging that we don’t have it in ourselves to do what God has set before us, but no matter how huge the thing is He is speaking to our hearts, humility answers with an emphatic “Yes!”

Closing Discussion:

We don't want to just remember being hungry for Jesus and humbled before God back in the days of our youth in the faith. We want to continue to say yes and let God change our hearts. Let's continually bring our mess before Him and in humility acknowledge that we cannot take care of it alone. When we know that we don't have what it takes, but trust Him by laying what we do have before Him, we are saying "Yes!" to our great God. How can you take your relationship with God to a new level of trust and humility before Him? When you let go, watch and see what God can do!