

# Pastor's Corner

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November 2011

Dear Ones,

In Luke 18:15-17 there is a story about little children simply being little children. Imagine if you will, children running around with excitement, causing a disturbance by their laughter. In the gospel story, the people are bringing their children to Jesus simply so that they might be touched by him. The disciples find this disturbing; it is recorded that they sternly attempt to send the children away. Jesus responds in verse 17; "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Last Saturday I attended my grandson's football game. As I was leaving, my daughter, Melissa, asked if I wanted to take our youngest grandson with me. We carefully secured him in my car and I drove off. As I drove, I thought about what a privilege it was to have my grandson with me. But I also thought of how much innocent trust there was in me, that I would make sure that he was taken care of. It was a great responsibility for me to assure that he arrived safely.

My grandson, Easton, is still very young, and the decisions of his life are made by others. Yet, those decisions are made so that he will be safe. They are made with his best interest in mind.

Jesus says; "Come all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28.

A child's trust is truly humbling. They look to us for help, for guidance, to make the right choices in their lives. We say that their lives are simple, because we are the ones that make the decisions for them. We take on the burden to care, protect, and provide; therefore, a child can run and play and enjoy God's abundant beauty.

In truth, that is how God wants our lives to be. God wants us to allow him to make those decisions. God wants to keep us safe, and to provide for us. But here are times when, though we make the best decision we can, bad things happen—a child falls and hurts himself. Then we step in to help and comfort and care for the child.

Likewise, when life deals us difficult blows, God is there for us. God will comfort us, care for us, and walk with us through our struggles.

No wonder the Scripture reminds us to receive the kingdom of God as a little child. We are the ones that often make our lives difficult by our choices. God wants to take care of us—if only we will let Him.

We are approaching the season when tempers grow short, stress builds, and we become burdened with the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Remember, take time to stop and give God those burdens; then, you may discover that you don't need the burden that you are holding on to. God will take care of you!

*Rev. Eric Lane*

