

Be Converted

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

BE CONVERTED

Bible Text: Matthew 18:6-7, Matthew 19:13-14

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Introduction

You are all welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I hope you all had a lovely day?

The topic before us is what we must look at as christians, and as those expecting and waiting for the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you know that your focus is Heaven then you cannot joke with this teaching, follow carefully as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself teaches us.

Study

Matthew 18:1-7 KJV At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? [2] And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, [3] And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. [4] Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. [5] And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. [6] But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. [7] Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Looking at Jesus Christ's disciples' words, we would see that their concern is not to get to the kingdom of Heaven but to know

the greatest because they already had the mentality that they would get there. But the Lord brought them back to the reality of the matter on ground that it is not only about being the greatest but it's also about gaining entrance. **Matthew 18:3 KJV** And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. This means that one must have what it takes to enter before he can be dreaming about being the greatest. And the key to this feat is conversion, a person who is not converted cannot enter the kingdom of God.

What is humility?

The word humility is a derivation of the word humble which means not proud or haughty, not arrogant or assertive. It also means reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission. It is ranking low in a hierarchy or scale : INSIGNIFICANT, UNPRETENTIOUS and also not costly or luxurious.

Throughout the scriptures the Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles spoke so much about pride, pride is the opposite of humility. **1 Peter 5:5 KJV** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. The Holy Spirit repeated the same instructions through Apostle James in **James 4:6 KJV** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

We have to note that; *it takes humility to allow conversion to take place in one's life.* One must accept the nature of a child with all meekness and lowliness. Conversion may not be present without humility because a proud heart will not see any reason to change.

Things to expect when you become humble

The Lord Jesus Christ cannot tolerate someone who is full of him/herself, many of His children are ignorant of this, they are proud in His sight yet they do not know. Even from the way they talk, look, react, behave etc. It shows pride and God resists the proud so much and relates with him from afar off. It becomes something to worry about when God cannot have a man close to Himself. At the same time, when one becomes humble there are things that one would pass through, but does that give one the right not to be humble? No! Jesus Christ was humble and we are commanded to look like Him, exactly like Him.

Things To Expect When You Become Humble

1. **You will become vulnerable:** you might get physically and emotionally wounded because of your meekness and may be mistaken for foolishness so you might get hurt for what people do to you.
2. **You might be cheated:** because people know that you would not resist them they might cheat you.
3. **You might be relegated to be nothing:** the honor you deserve may not be given to you.

In the midst of all these, true humility would not count this nor take offense in them. It is not the type that will get behind closed doors and begin to lament to God saying "Lord if it is not because you said we should be humble I would have shown Mrs Jane pepper for what she did to me today." That is not the one we are talking about, that is false humility. It is not the one that is done for show off too. It is a type that is borne naturally from one's heart and one feels peace in.

Therefore the moment this conversion happens in us and we have truly become like little children, anyone who then receives us in that state/nature that is a childlike nature, would be

receiving us in the name of the Christ and certainly such would by no means lose their reward. This kind of nature is not the kind that is so popular and generally accepted in the world, In fact it is alien to the world. Which is why many cannot live it out and reject it. It's something hard for them to comprehend.

The rejection shown to us might be worse but at the end of the day anyone who sees it fitting to welcome us would have Christ welcomed because that is the nature of Christ. **Matthew 18:5 KJV** And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. Such people with this childlike nature are Christ's beloved, they are cherished, protected, provided for and basically catered for by Him, they are dear to His heart and for no reason would He give them up into the hands of the devil.

Due to this childlike nature the Lord said those who will seek opportunities to cheat, oppress, maltreat and treat these ones with contempt causing them to stumble, those who would intentionally create an avenue to make these ones lose their trust and faith will find judgment not palatable as they would not go scot-free, therefore He pronounced woe on them. The world is full of offenses, woe to the world because it causes people to lose their faith, woe to the world because it causes people to sin, woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling, woe to the world for temptations.

The Lord Jesus Christ pronounced woes because the world is full of stumbling blocks, the world does not want anyone to stand in the faith. The world is filled with things that do not produce and promote righteous living but unholiness. And how horrible would it be for the world because of these too many woes but that is not all. Woe also to whomever causes others to stumble. How terrible for the one who causes others to sin, it would be so horrible. Anyone who is the reason another person falls into temptation, how tragic it is for such, the Lord does not hold such

a person in regard as He does not joke with His own children. He is saying for you to have been the reason for the fall of another person then it is something horrific and that should call for serious trembling.

Those in defamation, slander, gossip, lies, some even encourage their children to tell lies. These are tongues that do not only sin but cause others to do so. There are bodies that not only sin but cause orders to lust after them. Putting other people's well-being before ours would help us to be conscious of whatever hindrance we would be putting on their ways knowingly or unknowingly. We have to understand that most things in the Kingdom are not about us but about others. When we have this in mind to please others above us we would begin to find living for Christ easy and interesting. **Matthew 18:10 KJV** Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Jesus Christ talked about the angels assigned to these humble ones, then He said beware that you did not take advantage of them because they are not just of themselves but of their Father in Heaven. Just the way great personalities have guards and messengers we were told that they also have Angels who stand in the presence of God readily as if to receive orders from God in favor of these ones, Angels that operate with the speed of light. **Ezekiel 1:14 KJV** And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Therefore caution must be made when dealing with these ones as one might bring upon oneself swift destruction, for those who continue to behold His face through His Word are well grounded by Him and the affairs about them are not taken with levity. Oftentimes as humans we seek positions, we seek to know we are esteemed by others wherever we find ourselves, which is

precedency. It is of the flesh to dominate. It was due to the nature to control, which was still in the lives of Christ's disciples that made them ask the question, "who is the greatest " they wanted to be ranked so that the one on top can dominate, and they would see it as something to be proud about.

Although, in the beginning when God created man He created them to rule/dominate, to have prominence over all that He had created. **Genesis 1:28 KJV** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Therefore this mentality is already in the subconscious minds of His disciples. Naturally men love to exercise control over others, His disciples thought that is how it is in the kingdom of God, whereas the formula for operating in the kingdom of God is different from the one used in operating in a world already stricken with sins. It was because of the defects and errors of the formula which happened in the garden of Eden through Adam and Eve that made Christ come to really make God's ways clearer to men. The erroneous formula the devil brought in advocate for self above others that made Eve think to be like God which makes the flesh feel glorified and this is what the Lord made His disciples to know about. In the kingdom of God reverse is the case there's no room for self glorification, that is why the one who wants to be great must be devoid of self. Therefore, the formula in operation in God's Kingdom is "you must become nothing to become something" hence, conversion is needed.

In this world of sin to become nothing is an unrealistic idea, it does not make sense because the flesh would feel cheated and not treated with regards/respect so it would not allow anything that will tamper with its ego and for anyone to be great in God's kingdom there must be conversion, that is a change, a

turnaround to a little child after repentance not physically but in the mind of one's spirit, it must reflect in all our behaviors. This conversion can be likened to this.

I'm a Nigerian who wants to go to the UK. If I decide to take my raw cash to the UK , refusing to convert it to dollars, would I be able to make a transaction with it there? No! Therefore that naira must get converted to dollars, at that point when it has been converted if I take the dollar to a supermarket to purchase anything will they reject it saying it was a naira before? No! Because they can never know I converted it. So they will recognise the currency and accept it because it is genuine, and acceptable for transaction. Therefore, Conversion means having another mind frame and temperate thoughts of oneself and of the kingdom of God.

Then the conversation Jesus is talking about here is just like we likening ourselves to be the currency, we must be changed, that is transformed totally, let's assume that I converted the money and a single note then have half of it as Nigeria naira, and the other half as UK dollars and I go to the supermarket to purchase something, would it be collected? No! In fact I might be arrested and jailed because of it.

That is the way many of us are living our lives, we are born again but have not really experienced conversion, we still have a part of the old nature in us so we are double-sided but it is unfortunate that Christ said those people cannot be admitted into His Kingdom like that, He does not want us to be lukewarm that was why He said that He would spew us out of His mouth if we are neither cold nor hot so this was one of the things the Lord was trying to explain to His disciples and of course to us, it is of prideful nature to be arrogant, domineering, self-seeking, controlling, selfish, and self-gratifying etc. We must be changed from our old self and life to a new one. Jesus then did not leave

us in the dark to know what/who to change to. He said, "become as little children " that process of becoming is what is very difficult for many because we can see that it also requires our participation *as repentance is not when you cry but when you change.*

What does the Lord mean by saying like little children?

It means returning to square one in nature, it means to start all over again like children. Going back to the root point of human nature, although not in understanding of the principles and the precepts of the word of Life. **1 Corinthians 14:20 KJV Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.** The Lord is saying we should have the nature, behaviour, character of little children, this is usually difficult to do because many are seeing themselves to be something and when they are **nothing**.

The nature of little children in relation to what Christ is saying.

1. It is important to note that converting grace makes us like little children, but not foolish as little children. 1 Corinthians 14:20 KJV Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

2. It does not mean that we should be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Ephesians 4:14 KJV That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; there are those who sit under false teachers to learn their doctrines, thinking that they are trying to become like little children by also learning from them, but have now gone into deep heresies, we should not be tossed to and fro by all kinds of doctrines which are not found in Christ.

3. It does not mean that we should be playful like little children. Matthew 11:16 KJV But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, This does not mean that we should not play with children but in our nature we should not begin to take matters that are serious with levity just as children do.

What the Lord is telling us is that as children

1. We must desire the sincere milk of the word of God. 1 Peter 2:2 KJV As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: that is, we must be humble enough to sit with the word of God constantly. Desiring its basic truths in order to pattern our lives accordingly.

2. We must not worry about anything but leave it to our heavenly Father to care for us. Matthew 6:31 KJV Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? This is in relation to our earthly father that caters for us even when we do not know it. He provides for the home even when we do not bother to know how it would happen or be done.

3. It means that we should be harmless and inoffensive; also void of malice. A little child can go into his mother's kitchen, take the meat and sit down there and start to eat it and his mother would meet him there, and when she finally sees him, he might be laughing and smiling at her so he cannot steal, lie or keep secrets. It's unfortunate that some so-called Christians have those whom they do not greet anymore, this set of people are not converted. **1 Peter 2:1-2 KJV** Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, [2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

4. It means to be governable and under command. Romans 13:1 KJV *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.* A man must be subject to an authority before he can be governable and under command. This is what prevents rebellion. **Galatians 4:2 KJV** *But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.* There are some people who are ungovernable; they see themselves as better and see no reason to submit themselves to anyone. Most times such people find it hard to submit even to the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. We must be humble: This is the theme of Christ's illustration to His disciples, humility!, to become like little children we must be humble in nature. Jesus Christ who is the greatest example of humility is the One that gave us this example to follow. **1 Peter 5:5 KJV** *...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.* Sometime ago, a brother who was a member of this ministry but left as time went on messaged me. I did not know why he left until the day he saw a post of mine on my status and he commented on it, from his comments I got to know that he could not cope with the kind of raw teachings we teach here and the emphasis he made was that I was very young, he kept on repeating it, and I was wondering what that has to do with what the Lord Jesus Christ commanded me to do. He was not humble enough to learn because he thought the messages I teach here are from men or head knowledge, or that I sent myself to preach and teach because of zeal not knowing that pride fosters ignorance.

Humility makes us to know these

(a) **The little child does not seek for honor:** little children do not think big of themselves, they will not claim that a kind of special chair is to be the one to be reserved for them. When a little child is taken somewhere and is asked to sit on a chair, such

would not say the chair is too small or it is placed at the back, she will sit there without complaining and not feeling unhonored so she takes no offense. Those who are humble would always want to remain unnoticed and this they gladly do because they do not seek that men honor them but that they are loved and exalted by Christ.

(b) **A little child does not discriminate:** This is because little children always have the mind that they are the least, they will never take offense for not being exalted. Nor will they find it offensive to relate with other children. The children of a rich man can play with that of a beggar peacefully without segregation and they would enjoy their time together. They do not operate in status quo, they do claim levels, the child of a black man can easily get along with that of a white man without issues not minding their colors, this is because they do not have the feeling of being more important than anyone. This is the kind of nature the Lord is telling us to have, we must not discriminate between gender, race, families etc we must be as little children. There are many who discriminate today even among men of God who are serving in the same vineyard, claiming superiority, this should not be, it does not portray us as those who are converted.

(c) **That little children do not seek for positions so that they can be exalted:** little children quiet themselves not in rivalries of different sorts. **Psalm 131:1-2 KJV** Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. [2] Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child. Just as little children are little in body and low in stature, we must be also little and low in spirit. We must always think of others as better than ourselves. We should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. **Romans 12:3 KJV** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to

every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught about this much more clearly saying if you are invited to a place, do not go to sit at the highest place (high table) **Luke 14:8-11 KJV** When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; [9] And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. [10] But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. [11] For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. For any man to be able to take the lowest place before he is exalted such a person must have been converted and have truly become as little children because such a person would not mind anything that has to do with positions. **Proverbs 25:7-8 KJV** For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen. [8] Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

We must live in harmony with one another, we must not be (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive) but readily adjust ourselves to people and things and also give ourselves to humble tasks. We should not overestimate ourselves. This means that we are not bigger than anyone, any job, any position, any duty, and any race. We should conduct ourselves with humility of mind. **Romans 12:16 KJV** Be of the same mind one toward another.

Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

6. It means that we should be content: It is the dress that is worn for a little child, that is the best for her, she would not be jealous of another. She doesn't mind nor care about what to wear nor does she struggle for high things as much as she sucks her mother's breast then she is satisfied. As Christians we too must be pleased with what our heavenly Father has given to us and not be envious of others. **1 Timothy 6:6 KJV** But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7. We must be trusting: to trust simply means assured reliance on the character, ability, strength or truth of God. We must learn to rely totally on God's truths, ability and strength. When we trust God we would have nothing to worry about because we know that He is more than sufficient for us.

When the father of a child throws her up, the child would smile because she knows that her father would catch her, that is trust, in the same way when challenges and tough situations throw us up we should be sure that our father will catch us so we should not be afraid. A little child does not worry about what to eat or drink because she knows her father will supply those things. **Matthew 6:32 KJV** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

8. We must be loving: this is another attribute of little children. They are loving, they basically love everyone, even those who see them as enemies. They also have this assurance of affection when they see someone crying around them they can tell the person sorry no matter who the person is. They cherish relationships with those around them. **Leviticus 19:18 KJV** Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy

people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord.

9. It means to be forgiving: little children are highly forgiving, that is why they do not keep Malice. You can hardly find two little children who stop talking to each other because of what happened in the past, once they disagree and even beat each other, soon they come back to play together forgetting what had happened. It's their parents that are usually the ones that would start saying why they would still play together. Whereas those ones did not take offense against each other. In the same way as christians we should be like that, we should not have an unforgiving spirit, we must forgive people as they offend us not until they come to apologize for their wrongs, children do not need to apologize to each other before they forgive. In the same way, we should be able to forgive people even before they apologize.

From what you have been learning about little children you can see that it is compulsory for every believer in Christ Jesus so be as little children if your aim is to making heaven because without this conversion nobody will pass through heaven's gate, may we be genuinely converted, humbling ourselves before the Lord, as He counted us worthy to pass through the glorious gates of heaven in Jesus Christ name, Amen.

Prayer

Lord we pray that You shall clothe us with humility as You have taught us today, grant us genuine conversion so that we can reign with you in eternity in Jesus Christ name, Amen.

Invitation

If you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven. Please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Saviour, I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I make a decision to obey and follow You today. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ name I pray Amen.

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer please WhatsApp +2347067511039, and tell me that you just got saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you.

Prayer

Father, we thank You for Your word that has blessed our souls, we pray that You would remove every veil that has blinded our minds and let Your light shine upon us so that we be able to focus more on You and not be distracted by the frivolities of this world so that we can reign with You eternally, in Jesus Christ's name. AMEN

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