

14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY YEAR A

THE GOSPEL TALKS ABOUT CHILDHOOD.

JESUS LOVE FOR CHILDREN IS HIGHLIGHTED IN ANOTHER GOSPEL:-

IN LUKE 18 JESUS SAYS:-

“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT STOP THEM FOR IT IS SUCH AS THESE THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS”

CHILDHOOD HAS TWO MAIN ASPECTS

CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR AND CHILDLIKE BEHAVIOUR.

LETS LOOK AT THEM

AS A GRANDFATHER OF 9 AGED 6-14 I AM WELL AWARE OF THEM BOTH

CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR IS A SELF CENTERED AND SELFISH ONE WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE DRIVEN BY THE NEED TO HAVE...EVERYTHING. SUCH AS THE CURRENT PHASE OF FIGET SPINNERS, YOU SEE THEM EVERYWHERE. WHEN PARENTS SUCCUMB IT ONLY ENCOURAGES THIS BEHAVIOR.

OF COURSE CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR DOES NOT STOP AT CHILDHOOD MANY PEOPLE NEVER MOVE ON FROM THIS APPROACH TO SELFISHNESS IN THEIR LIVES

CHILDLIKE BEHAVIOUR IS THAT BEAUTIFUL, UNSPOILT BEHAVIOUR UNTOUCHED BY THE WORLD AND SIN, SELFISHNESS AND CORRUPTION.

A BEHAVIOUR THAT IN TERMS OF THE GOSPEL IS OPEN TO LOVE. THE LOVE OF PARENTS AND THE LOVE OF GOD AND A DESIRE TO FOLLOW GOOD EXAMPLE.

AS A GRANDDAD I SEE THE LOVE THAT CHILDREN DESIRE AND THAT THEY GIVE UNCONDITIONALLY, IN THEIR CHILDLIKE WAY.

THAT'S THE ASPECT OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT JESUS TALKS ABOUT WHEN HE SAYS IN LUKE 18:-  
"I TELL YOU TRULY, WHOEVER DOES NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A LITTLE CHILD WILL NEVER ENTER IT"

AS WE MATURE AND GROW WE SHOULD LEAVE OUR CHILDISH BEHAVIOUR BEHIND AND TAKE WITH US OUR CHILDLIKE BEHAVIOUR.

NEXT IN THE GOSPEL JESUS HAS A FURTHER MESSAGE

FARMERS TODAY USE TRACTORS WHEN PLOWING THEIR FIELDS.

IN EARLIER TIMES THEY USED OXEN AND THE OXEN WERE BOUND TOGETHER BY A LARGE PIECE OF WOOD CALLED A YOKE.

SO THE WORD YOKE CONJURS UP IMAGES OF HARD LABOUR.

BUT JESUS TELLS US OTHERWISE.

“COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND ARE OVERBURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. SHOULDER MY YOKE AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND HUMBEL OF HEART, YES MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN LIGHT”

THE MESSSAGE IS THAT THE YOKE JESUS GIVES US IS LOVE. LOVE OF GOD, OUR NEIGHBOUR AND OURSELVES

QUITE AN EASY YOKE TO BEAR ISNT IT?

OF COURSE WE ALL HAVE TO BEAR SOME OTHER BURDENS IN OUR LIVES. JESUS HAS SAID “TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.”

WE WILL ALL HAVE CROSSES TO BEAR DURING OUR LIVES THAT’S UNAVOIDABLE. MAYBE SEVERE SICKNESS, MENTAL ILLNESS, UNEMPLOYMENT, LOSS OF DEAR ONES. IN ALL THESE THINGS JESUS’

COMPASSION IS ALWAYS THERE. AND IF WE COME TO HIM IN FAITH AND LOVE HE WILL HELP US.

WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THE CROSS THAT JESUS CHOSE FOR OUR SALVATION

SO LETS US LOOK AT OUR LIVES  
IS IT TIME TO ADOPT A MORE CHILDLIKE APPROACH IN  
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS,AND LOOK TO HIM TO  
HELP US IN TIMES OF NEED.