

When God was Little

Part 2

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Christmas: The Most Beautiful Narrative Ever Told

- God takes on human flesh and moves into our neighbourhood, entering our pain and brokenness, bringing light and redemption into our lives.
- Jesus, both man and God, breaks through our spiritual darkness so that we can truly live.

The “Human Value Scale”

- We make judgments about people everyday. Whether we know it or not, we are soaking in a system that likes to categorize and rank people based on factors like power or status, gender, beauty, education, bank account balances, fame, etc.
- We take inventories of the accomplishments of others, even if it is subconscious.
- This “value scale” was present in Jesus’ context as well. There was a pecking order that firmly put people in their place.
- The incarnation was a direct assault on this pecking order. Babies are defenseless, needy, vulnerable– and this is how God shows up.

The Value System of the Kingdom of God

- Matthew 18:1–4
- The disciples have been with Jesus for a while now, and they keep hearing about the kingdom that Jesus is describing.
- They believe that his kingdom will resemble every other kingdom, and have a clear hierarchal structure.
- They begin jockeying with each other for position; they want to know where they fit in and who is greater.
- However, everything they think they know about the kingdom, actually it is the exact opposite
- The new kingdom didn’t belong to the powerful, but rather, the humble.

Jesus and Children

- Matthew 19:13–15
- In Jesus’ context, children were seen as being of little value, even to the point of being disposable.
- Jesus sees them as having value in their present state, before they become adults.

- The kingdom of heaven belongs to the humble, the lowly, the undervalued– the “least of these”.
- This is also seen in Jesus’ interactions with women in the midst of a male-dominated world, as well as with the diseased.

The New Human Value Scale

- Jesus was bringing in a new value scale.
- All human beings have worth and intrinsic value that doesn’t depend on who they are, where they’re from, or what they do.
- When Jesus entered the world as a baby, he was demonstrating what God measures in His kingdom: humility, dependence, openness, sacrifice.

What does this mean for us?

- Actively resisting the human value scale that the world offers.
- Valuing people and helping them understand how much they are valued by God.
- Educating ourselves about the “least of these”.
- Walk in humility, understanding that everyone is in need of a Saviour.

Discussion:

- How does the “pecking order” of the world impact your life and how you see yourself?
- Does the new human value scale change the way you see yourself and others? How?
- How can you help others understand how much they are valued by God?