

Date.	Journ.	Place.
Dec. 25. 1894.	Birmingham.	Westminster Road.
Mar. 17. 1901.	London.	New Court.
Aug. 1908.	London.	Westminster Chapel
Oct. 5. 1909.	Brighton.	Dome. S.S. Convention
Apr. 14. 1913.	London	Westminster Chapel
Feb. 2. 1919.	"	St. Albans Guild.
Apr. 28. 1920.	Washington, D.C.	17 Cong. Church.
Mar. 18. 1935.	Beaufield W.Va.	Blount St. Mch. Ch.
Jan. 6. 1936.	Cincinnati. O.	Aust. Pres. Ch.
Jul. 11. 1939.	Sacramento. Ca.	Dumont. "
Nov. 15. 1942.	London	Westminster.

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MATTHEW 18:1-3.

"In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven? And He called to Him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the Kingdom of heaven!"

INTRODUCTION.

Our Text chronicles an Enquiry and an Answer. For the interpretation of both the Context is needed.

1. As to the Enquiry.

These were the days of amazement, perplexity, and sorrow; and consequent upon the strange declarations at Caesarea Philippi.

2. As to the Answer. (see over)

2. As to the Answer.

The whole paragraph is necessary.

1. The Action. 2. An object Lesson

ii. The Assertion. 3.4. Except.

Whosoever.

iii. The Application. 5-14.

a. The Tests.

The Child receives the Child.

The opposite is true.

b. The Warnings.

Christ's identity.

A Millstone.

Woe.

Mutilation preferable to offence.

c. The ultimate Instruction.

The Peril. "Despise".

The Correction.

The little one and the Angels.

The little one and the Shepherd.

The little one and the Father.

If that examination is tedious, it is important,

Notice the Sequence.

Be like a child.

Receive a child.

Offend not a child.

Despise not a child.

Let us consider

A. The Standard which the King erects.

B. The Responsibility which the King declares.

C. The Provision which the King makes.

(3)

A. THE STANDARD WHICH THE KING ERECTS.

I. "A little child...in the midst".

That is the perfect pattern.

II. To tell all would be very difficult; for simplicity is ever most sublime.

Take four most patent.

i. Humility.

Unconscious.

Expressed in ambition to be.

Humility is the Inspiration of true
Ambition.

ii. Naturalness.

Answering the Impulses of its own

Possibility. Questions.

Play.

Affection.

Hear.

iii. Impressionableness. Plastic.
Amenable.
Receptive.

iv. Confidence. Obedience.

III. Apart. "In no wise". (see over) ↘

(4)

III. Apart. "In no wise."

Persistence.

Purchase.

Patronage.

B. THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THE KING DECLARES.

I. These men were asking about Greatness
within.

He halted them at the Wicket.

A startling thing, revealing the Severity
of the Condition.

II. The Change. "Turn".

i. To Humility from Pride.

To ambition resulting from a sense of
limitation; from an ambition born of
a sense of ability.

ii. To Naturalness from Hypocrisy.

The end of acting a part.

keeping up appearance.

iii. To Impressionableness from Hardness.

The fear of Laughter and Tears.

The foolhardy love of a false con-
sistency.

iv. To Confidence from Rebellion.

Disobedience is outcome of Unbelief.

C. THE PROVISION WHICH THE KING MAKES.

I. Nicodemus' Question.

"How can a man be born when he is old?"

II. The Reply of Jesus.

"Born of the Spirit".

III. The Demonstrations.

i. Humility.

"I have not yet attained."

ii. Naturalness.

"By the grace of God I am what I am."

iii. Impressionableness.

Clay in the hands of the Potter.

iv. Confidence.

The unveiled Lord.

CONCLUSION.

The time, not the theme, is exhausted.

Let us yield ourselves anew to the Lord by
the Spirit.

So we may realize and reveal the Kingdom.

And to this end let us pray that we may be

"Blameless and harmless.

The children of God without rebuke."

"Backward, turn backward, O time in your
flight;
Make me a child again, just for tonight;
Mother, come back from the echoless shore,
Take me again to your heart as of yore;
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care,
Smooth the silver threads out of my hair,
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep,
Rock me to sleep, Mother, rock me to sleep."

This is not a cry for toys.

It is the wail of a weary soul for Home.
Rest.
God.

Now you are in the midst of the mighty,
river of Renewal.

Yield.

Then in the new Birth you will find child-
hood and the Kingdom.