

WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT CHILDREN

Matthew 18:1-7 ¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He called a little child to Him and placed the child among them. ³ And He said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. ⁶ If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come." (NIV)

Matthew 18:2-3 ² He called a little child to Him and placed the child among them. ³ And He said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (NIV)

1. Jesus said the most SIGNIFICANT in His kingdom are the INSIGNIFICANT.

Matthew 18:4 "Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

2. Jesus said when we FOCUS on the "little ones" we FIND Him.

Matthew 18:5 "And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." (NIV)

3. Jesus said if you MESS with little ones you will have to MESS with Him.

Matthew 18:6-7 ⁶ If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come." (NIV)

THE SAD STATS

GLOBAL POVERTY FACTS

- More than 736 million people worldwide live below the poverty line — measured by the World Bank as earning less than \$1.90 per day.¹
- The poverty threshold for a family of four in the United States is an income of just over \$26,000 per year.²
- Poverty rose globally in 2020 and 2021 by 150 million people — the first increase in the global poverty rate in 20 years.
- Child poverty accounts for half of the world's poor with 1 out of 5 children experiencing extreme poverty.
- Roughly 84% of people experiencing extreme poverty live in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.
- Worldwide, the poverty rate is three times higher in rural areas than in urban cities.
- One out of every 27 children will die before reaching the age of 5, mostly from malnutrition and other preventable causes due to extreme poverty.
- More than ½ of child deaths occur in just five developing nations: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.
- Approximately 264 million children and youths around the world are not attending school.
- UNESCO estimates global poverty could be cut by 55% if all children completed secondary education.

ABORTIONS

- Guttmacher Institute (2020) = 930,160 (1.5 % increase from previous year) in the USA. Does not include the Abortion Pill.
- National Right to Life: 63,459,781 abortions since Roe Vs Wade decision (1973-2019).

ABUSE

- National Children's Alliance: An estimated 600,000 children (unique incidents) were victims of abuse and neglect in 2021 in the USA, the most recent year for which there is national data. The actual number of children abused is likely underreported because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

CHILD LABOR

- 152 million children worldwide are victims of child labor; 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls.
- 48 percent of all victims of child labor are aged 5-11 years.
- Almost half of child labor victims (73 million) work in hazardous child labor; more than one-quarter of all hazardous child labor is done by children less than 12 years old (19 million).
- Almost half of child workers are in Africa (72.1 million); 41 percent (62.1 million) are in Asia and the Pacific.
- More than two-thirds of all children in child labor (69.1 percent) work as contributing family laborers on family farms and in family enterprises.

TRAFFICKING

- At any given moment, an estimated 50 million people are being victimized in situations of trafficking and exploitation (including forced marriage) worldwide. 25% of these are children.

BOTTOM LINE

Ezekiel 16:20-21 “²⁰ And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was prostitution not enough? ²¹ You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to idols. ²² In all your detestable practices and your prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood. ²³ Woe! Woe to you, declares the Sovereign Lord. In addition to all your other wickedness.” (NIV)

Proverbs 31:8-9 “⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (NIV)