



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

29 – These Little Ones

Announcements:

5/17 @6:30 -

*Women's Bible
Study*

5/18 @7:00 -

*Corporate
Prayer*

5/19 @6:30 -

Grace Group

5/22 @8:30 -

Sunday School

ICE BREAKER: What is a term of endearment you love to be called? One you could do without?

READ: Matthew 10:40-42

In my estimation, nicknames that we are given fall into one of two categories. Either they are pointless and silly or they are packed with meaning. When Jesus refers to his disciples as “little ones” it is certainly the latter. It is a term that Jesus uses from time to time that became one of the favorite terms of his “beloved” little one, John. In 1 John he uses it over and over again to encourage, strengthen, and lift up those he is writing to. So today we will dive deep into what Jesus says about little ones here, looking for our own strengthening and encouragement!

The first note that we can make about these little ones is understanding who they are in (here it comes....) **CONTEXT!** In the passage immediately before this one Jesus describes those he is sending on mission as both prophets and righteous. So we start with this thought: we are his righteous prophets! But immediately after describing us in such lofty terms, he wants us to remember something: we only have that position because we are his little ones. It will not do for those who are called by Jesus to go off thinking that they can fulfill what he has called us to in our own strength and might. So while encouraging and wonderful to know that we are his cherished little ones, there is also the thought that we are his **LITTLE ONES**. Just like Willow is not allowed to cross the street without holding my hand and still relies on Desiree and me to do some of the most basic things that sustain her, so too are we with Jesus! The point is that we need his constant care, protection and provision.

DISCUSS: Just like children often don't think they need their parents, we often act the same way with God. How can this reminder that we are his little ones help us?

The next thing to note is the one thing in this entire section that every commentator seems to agree on. Jesus is intentionally making what is done for the little ones just about the smallest kindness you could think of. It is merely giving them a cup of water. Just imagine with me it is the middle of summer, temperatures are soaring **AND** because of the recent heat wave the power grid is out and so no one has a/c (or even swamp cooler!). Now all of the sudden you get a knock on your door and someone tells you that they are super thirsty and all they are looking for is a glass of water. What kind of heartless person would say no to such a simple, and necessary, request. But yet that is what Jesus is talking about. It is not the *size* of the favor or thought for the little ones, it is just *that* you think of and care for the little ones. Thus Spurgeon writes: Acts of love are divinely estimated rather by motive than by measure.

DISCUSS: In what ways is it encouraging that God measures motive and not measure? In what ways might that be terrifying?

But the final thought I would like to make is this: Note the beauty of the divine economy we participate in. When these thoughts are put together it goes something like this: “We are helpless little ones -- empowered by our God -- doing things, both big and small, for the other little ones of God.” We are called to love one another, care for each other, be there, offering “cups of water” as the Lord gives opportunity. And in doing so we gain great reward!

DISCUSS: What rewards do we gain in this divine economy?