

Unless We Become as Little Children

Matthew 18:3- And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (KJV)

A number of years ago when my twin grandsons were very young, they went to the parish cemetery adjacent to the church parking lot. While playing in the cemetery, they began to reverently kiss the crosses located there.

As the two boys exited the cemetery, they passed by my car, a Chevrolet. They stopped at the front of the car and kissed the emblem on the front. My grandsons viewed the emblem as a cross to be kissed.

I had owned many Chevrolets before this particular day. During decades of driving, I never viewed the standard emblem on a Chevrolet as a cross. Ever since the day my grandsons kissed the emblem, I have viewed the emblem as a cross.

If my memory is correct, somewhere in my reading of the writings of St. Nicholai Velimirovic, I learned about viewing objects in daily life that are shaped as a cross. Strength and inspiration can be drawn from these images.

As we grow into adulthood, we often lose the simplicity of viewing events and occurrences in daily life. Our views of daily life, objects and happenings are shaped and influenced by experiences with the passing of time.

Simple clarity may get lost in the process of human life experience. These young boys saw a cross before them and they approached it reverently. Their lives, vision and understanding had not been distorted with experiences of many years.

In previous years of giving sermons, I very rarely mentioned personal experiences. Shortly after the boys kissed the emblem on my car, I included a description of their actions in a Sunday sermon.

The boys' kissing the cross in their heartfelt simplicity resulted in the most memorable of comments. The comments received were totally unexpected. Describing the boys' actions made an impact.

Preaching the Gospel and attempting to live by the Gospel is the greatest of blessings and honors. Sermon preparation is a learning and sharing experience. The heart, mind and soul are nourished in the process.

Drawing strength and direction from God are essential in sermon preparation. Consistent use of the Holy Scriptures strengthens, gives root and anchor to sermons.

Sermons need to be easily understood and touch the heart, mind and soul. My grandsons in their simple actions taught me a lesson which continues to be of value.

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