# Ty Hill, Sermon Notes 10/8/23

**The Simple Gospel of Children, and the Complex Gospel of Grown-Ups**

* There is a synchronicity of some of Jesus’s central teachings and His amplification of children.
* Essentially, every theme in chapters 18, 19, and into chapter 20 of Matthew deal with self-status in some capacity.
* Children are:
  + Needy and dependent.
  + Function on emotion rather than reason.
  + Gross.

(This point above- can I put this all on one slide, but have the three points that “children are” appear one by one?)

* **Humility**
* When Jesus says of children, “for to such belong the kingdom of God”, he doesn’t mean the kingdom of God is possessed by the cute and the innocent, but by the helpless and the needy.
* Helpless is how we receive Jesus. His work is among the empty handed and the weak.xs
* **Trust and Obedience**
* Like children implicitly trust their parents, followers of Jesus are called to trust God. That trust in Him, even when life is terrifying and sad and makes no sense, is what makes a believer like a child.
* His welcome is a welcome of neediness, of smallness, of those who don’t know how to feed themselves or tie their shoes or wipe their noses. He wants you to come like a kid. A kid who might need carried.
* **Joy**
* “Optimism and hope are not the same thing. Optimism is a self-help trick where you tell yourself things are going to get better. Hope is that God is with us and all will be made well.” -John Mark Comer
* Regardless of one’s circumstances, child-like joy is available inside every single one of us as an (often) untapped reservoir of potential. It requires something heavy in return: Surrender. Perfect, beautiful, liberating surrender.
* There is no such thing as a Jr. Holy Spirit.
* You never grow out of being God’s little child. Don’t you dare grow out of the infinite joy and peace of the Gospel of Jesus.