

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Innocence

"Innocence is one of the most exciting things in the world." – Eartha Kitt

"Every life is a march from innocence, through temptation, to virtue or vice." – Lyman Abbott

"I can remember being eight, and I like writing about that age of innocence when children still have a sense of wonder." – John Boyne

"When we are children we seldom think of the future. This innocence leaves us free to enjoy ourselves as few adults can. The day we fret about the future is the day we leave our childhood behind." – Partick Rothfuss, *The Name of the Wind*

"The most sophisticated people I know – inside they are all children." – Jim Henson

There is such an inherent beauty in little children. Isn't it something that they can run about naked and not be ashamed? Such reminds us of Adam and Eve at their creation. "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Gen. 2:25). And after their sin, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings" (Gen. 3:7).

On one occasion, during our Lord's public ministry, we read, "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven'" (Matt. 18:1-4).

Isn't it remarkable that Jesus would extol the virtue of a child to His disciples? That inward beauty and innocence was something which had eluded these men in their squabble for greatness. In fact in Luke 9:26, what took place among these disciples of our Lord was a dispute (discussion or debate). We note with interest that Jesus had a response for them, telling them that to be of His kingdom it was essential that they become like little children.

Jealousy, envy, hatred, pride, and the like, are what one finds when innocence is lost. The church could certainly stand to study the little children and to see what our Lord wants of us.

People of the world today make fun of the innocent. They speak of it as though it was something terrible, when in reality, in the eyes of God, it is a blessing.