

TRANSCRIPT OF SERMON

In the name of the father and of the son and of the holy spirit. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven. Their angels, always see the face of my father. Who is in heaven? For the son of man came to save the lost.

The friends in Christ. This day we give, thanks to God. For the service and ministry of those invisible among us such as Michael. Gabriel. And all of God's, holy angels. How often they serve us and protect us. Even as they worship, God perfectly in heaven and someday. We will see them face to face.

It is indeed a comfort to know. That in this world. And then this life, we're not alone, there is in fact, other intelligent life in the universe. God's angels. Why do the angels serve us though? In our fall. And in our sins, if you were perfectly, holy And had a perfect.

Complete. Discussed of all that is evil. And gross and wrong and contrary to God's will. Why would you serve us? Would you not rather want to say? This is gross. You guys made this mess, you clean it up. Why do the angels serve and guard us? When they are made to watch our sins.

To see our lust. Our anger boiling over our jealousy. Our pride. Why do they not instead flee? Well, Jesus says Because they always see. The father's face. And that face is one set on you in blessing. The father's face shines on you. To save. And so, they serve you.

They don't focus on our sins. They focus. On our heavenly father's face. And if you want to know, What? The father loves, then. Look at the cross. And see what he gave up everything for. You gave up everything for you. He gave his only son into death and not just death, but death on a cross and not just death on a cross but death under the wrath of God bearing, the the just anger of God for all our sins and the disgust of the angels he bore it in himself in his body on the tree for you and rose on the third day, the angels serve you dear friends because they see how greatly God loves you.

And they love what? God loves. Jesus says that the angels don't despise us. That are not so far above us that they are unwilling to serve us then we ought not to despise one another. See that you do not despise. One of these little ones. What is a little one?

Well, There's that small child, Jesus put in their minds to say that that is the greatest and the kingdom of heaven. But he's speaking in metaphor here. Right? He does not actually want you to gouge your eye out or chop your arm off. The little one. Is you? The little one is anyone who realizes that like a child You need help and protection.

That is what it is to enter into the kingdom of heaven, to realize that you need god as your savior. That is what delights the angels. The world praises greatness. And they run off to serve those who have great power. But the angels rejoice. In humility. The world praises success.

But the world, the angels delight. In your faith. Luther once remarked that When i father. Is made does some lowly task like, Washing the diapers. And i just, i have this image in my head of dr. Luther washing diapers, you know, with this bible open somewhere to decide. He says, the whole world might mock that dad as an effeminate fool and say, oh, that's women's work, and why are you doing that?

But god and his angels smile. Not because of the work. But because he does it. In faith. God is not mocked. And he delights in faith. Be like a child says jesus. Turn and become. Like children. To be a child is not exactly. A safe thing. Is every parent knows?

And those every mother constantly worries about, I think, at any given moment, you moms are aware of all the ways that things could go wrong with your children. This is why it's hard for you. Uh, to Focus, because you're constantly being pulled away. By the needs of your children.

We have a one-year-old in our house right now and what he wants to do is crawl around the whole world and stick all kinds of things that will kill him in his mouth. This is what they do. And i suppose that this is, Like the angels work. They serve us by following us around and say no, don't put that in your mouth, don't stick that in your ear.

Get that out of your eye. Because we are like children. We put things. Evil things in our mouths because we think they will taste sweet. We put hideous things in our ears because we think they will tickle them. And we put filth before our eyes. Because we think it will delight us.

When it only brings darkness, To our souls. Well to you on earth and sea. The devil has come down to you in great wrath. Because he knows that his time is short. It's dangerous enough to be a child. Especially dangerous to be a child in time of war. Because to make things worse, our enemy is not a gentleman.

And he does not follow the rules of engagement. He does not only attack on the battlefield and in the aircraft carrier, but he also assaults families and children and schools and universities and states and local communities. He delights in civilian casualties. In fact, that is what he is after.

Scorched earth. As you say, His aim is always to ruin. An attack school and church and state. How does he do it? By getting schools.

States. And yes. Even churches to ignore the word of god. To say, you know what, god, i think you've got this one wrong. Let us tell you how things should go.

That is his battle plan. The devil knows. What he is doing. And he may be a defeated adversary. He has defeated. But he is still cunning and raging in his death rows because he knows his time is short. He is as a prowling lion, says peter. And worse than that.

We are children. In this fight. We are not the great warriors of faith. That we wish we were. Am i right? We are children. Scared and hiding under the bed. We are weak. We are easy to deceive. All too quickly. Do we end up giving quarter to the enemy and resupplying his munitions with our own sins.

We are children who need protection. The call to become a child. Is not a flattering thing. I know that. We often hold up children sometimes as our role models and we say, oh they're they're cute and they're delightful and we should be like them. And in some ways this is valid.

We do see virtues in our children that we have forgotten And that we should remember. But, You have to admit that. In these comparisons. Like when people say children, oh, they're so trusting and they have such a simple faith. That's true. But that's not really a real child that we have in our mind because that same child.

Is only sometimes like that, right? For every moment that a child is trusting, That same child can be rebellious or insistent on his own way to the point of throwing a fit. And, You have to admit, besides that, that is probably more accurate to say. Sorry, kids. The children are gullible.

Rather than that, they are trusting. This is why we have to tell small children not to take candy from strangers. But this is us. The devil hands is a candy bar. And we just hop in the car. The bible children are blessings. Always their signs of hope for the future gifts from god, in every case.

But the bible also speaks pretty forth brightly that children are ignorant and need to learn and grow up. They are unfit to rule. They cannot reliably choose between good and evil. The prophet Isaiah says they can't even count very high. They cannot defend themselves. And they are easily deceived.

So what i'm trying to get across to you, Is that when jesus says turn and become like a child, it's the same as when he says that you are sheep. In need of a shepherd. Children like sheep. Are especially good. At dying. If left alone. To become as a child is to realize how much You need God's help.

And how much you have received. From god, how many times the angels? Have saved you and pull things out of your mouth. That you're not even aware of. Like a one-year-old crawling around on the living room floor. We are children. Dear friends. But we are god's children. And then this war we are not without help.

In fact, our victory is certain When we sing. The angels sing with us. When we rejoice. The angels rejoice with us. When we weep. The angels come alongside of us. And when we die, The angels carry our souls to heaven. God be praised for all his angels. Come soon.

Lord, jesus.