

**“Can You Hear Me” (Matthew 11:28)
August 30, 2009 by Shirley Rayburn**



I. Introduction:

Matthew 18:1-5 (NLT)

¹ About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

² Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. ³ Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. ⁴ So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

⁵ “And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf^a is welcoming me.

So kids... you are MOST welcome here at New City! I think I can speak on behalf of all the grown-ups and say we love seeing you here in big church.

I’m going to read a book to you... called “Children Can You Hear Me” (First slide up)... The man who wrote this book wrote a grown-up version first... then his son when he was 6 took his dad out to lunch and informed him that it was time to write a children’s version.

I’m going to need your help as I read. I need you to listen closely... and sometimes I’m going to ask you questions... I need you to keep your thinking cap on.

And to you grown-ups... you’re not too big for this book. After I had been a Pastor for 10 years I had applied for a Sabbatical. By the time the details were arranged for it I was very – very tired. This book became my favorite study guide during my Sabbatical.

A word from the author to us adults is this:

“It’s written for the little boy or girl inside of you – the one that needs to overhear what Jesus is saying to his children... if you are able to hear this as an eager and willing child, take heart! You might just be entering the kingdom of heaven!”

**II. Children, Can You Hear Me? - by Brad Jersak (www.bradjersak.com)
Of course you can!**

Jeremiah 33:3 (New Living Translation)

³ Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.

READ THE STORY

Now Children you can head upstairs with Grace and Nathan for Snacks and Game Day! Woo hoo!

III. An Amazing Invitation

Matthew 11:28

²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Who here feels like this invitation is for you? Weary? Carrying heavy burdens? Then you qualify for this invitation from Jesus... to come to him and receive rest...

It's our choice... will I try to deal with these burdens on my own or will I accept his offer, come to him and receive rest.

IV. What's Stopping Me?

Oh so many things stop us...

I'm too busy...

We seem to be addicted to a hectic pace, a full schedule. Afraid that if we're caught without something to do that somehow that means we're not ok.

I also know that sometimes we are afraid of the quiet place. We're afraid to take a look at what's in our souls. The other ways of coping seem to be easier - or at least quicker.

Think for a moment about your own blocks to coming to Jesus... think about your own time. Do you ever think "Sure... sounds like a great invitation. I just wish I had time. I'd love to do that when I have more time." Friends, let's not fool ourselves.

Single – Married – Without Children – With Children – Employed – Unemployed – Student... I'm sorry... I've lived in each category... and I can tell you that as of yet I have never had a season when I've suddenly discovered I have so much more time on my hands.

Regardless of what our days are filled with, the choice to come is still ours to make. And we need to make that choice now.

A dear friend of mine was sharing a bit on Friday night at our place some of the things that she'd been thinking about recently and she said 'There is no secret to getting close to God... just spend time with Him.'

So I challenge you... make the choice. It's like a play-date with Jesus... he's waiting...

V. My Story:

When I became reacquainted with Jesus back in 1989 I was SOOO hungry and SOOO thirsty. I read a ton and I'd hear about people spending hours with God and I wondered what they did with their time. ... I wanted to know how I could dig deeper and know him more... one day I found this book in a Christian BookStore... it taught me so well... and the foundation that was established in those early years of disciplined time with Jesus have definitely had fruit in my life. ... it's by Becky Tirabassi... you can still find it in an updated version on the internet..

The journal was split into sections and the goal was to spend at least 20 minutes each day and go through each one of these sections. When I first started I couldn't imagine filling 20 minutes. After I got into the rhythm... I found often that an hour wasn't enough... I loved it!

Remember ... it's a conversation... remember the dialogue we heard from Jesus in the book? It's an interactive experience.

Our Part:

P – Praise A Psalm
A – Admit
R – Requests
T - Thanksgiving

God's Part:

L – Listen
M – Messages
N – New Testament
O - Old Testament
P – Proverbs

This was back in 1990. In 2004 I was introduced to the

VI. Come ...

And Rest
and Listen
and Delight
and Eat... Drink

Conclusion:

I want to take you back to the slide of Jesus and the cross...

A good place to leave your burdens... What makes you feel bad? Would you like to leave it here with Jesus? If you do and you'd like to come up here to have someone help lift that burden off your back... We'd love to pray with you...