

April 29, 2024

Meditation

## I Want That!

At just about any gift giving celebration you will hear children cry, “I want that!” Whether it is Christmas, an Easter egg hunt, a birthday party, or even a playdate, children frequently want what others have. They want the best toys for themselves. Sharing is typically the last thing on their minds.

As adults we stand back and say, “It’s going to be ok. You can have a turn later,” or, “Look at how cool your thing is,” or even, “Maybe you will get it for your next birthday.” We see them and think, “why aren’t you grateful for the neat thing you just received? You are so ungrateful.” We might even think, “They don’t appreciate how great they have it!”

However, adults are just as guilty as children when it comes to wanting things we don’t have. We may dream of a new home, new job, the perfect body, better health, or even the toys our neighbors have. God has given us many good gifts, but like selfish children we want more. We want what we don’t have.

While we look at the children with disappointment for their lack of gratitude, Jesus had something incredible to teach us from children. *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 18:1–4).

Do you long to be the greatest or have the latest and greatest toys? Misleading modern theology tries to teach if you believe in Jesus then you will have every physical thing you want. Jesus will make you prosper because of your faith. Truth be told though, as Christians, we are to humble ourselves. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to seek the good of others above ourselves. While our selfish tendencies do not stop when we are followers of Christ, we can trust God will help us in our weakness.

He will guide us in the truth and will provide what we need. Just like a child who is unhappy eating their vegetables, we often fail to realize the good that comes from waiting, doing what is difficult, or denying our sinful nature. God has promised good gifts. He has also promised to provide. It may not be what we want, but He knows exactly what we need and when we need it. Take heart in the struggle, God is with us and cares for us daily.

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