Our scripture this morning comes from Matthew 18:1-5. While you’re finding that, There was a Pastor who had a six-year-old daughter who had been misbehaving all week. Finally, in frustration, he told her she couldn’t go to the church picnic the next day. The next morning, he and his wife were talking and decided the punishment was too harsh. When they called the little girl and told her she could go, her face turned gloomy. The pastor asked, “Why are you so sad? I thought you’d be happy to go.” The child responded, “It’s too late daddy… I’ve already prayed for rain!” The trust of a child! Do we have child-like trust in God this morning?

**Matthew 18:1-5 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3and 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. 4Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.**

 Jesus said, “Unless you become like little children, you will not enter heaven.” He didn’t say – it’s hard to enter the Kingdom; He said you won’t. Last week, we talked about Father’s Day. Remember, as a child, how you sought the father you loved? Not all of us had good fathers, but all of us have had someone we considered a father figure. Remember how you sought him? How you loved to be around him? How you hung on every word? How the things he did amazed and delighted you - because it was amazing and delighting?... maybe because you were amazed and delighted to be with him. Jesus says – come to the Father humbled, amazed, delighted… hanging on every miracle, every blessing that God is working in your life… looking forward with excitement to the next moment and the next moment and the next moment with Him.

This morning, we witnessed humility, as Lois was baptized. What a blessing! Lois and I have talked a lot and she has a pure longing for closer and closer relationship with Jesus. She knows that she is not where she used to be, but she knows she’s not where she wants to be. Her heart longs to sit with Jesus and talk with Him. I find inspiration in her.

How does a child come to a loving father? A child comes with a simple joy of being in the Father’s presence, with an open mind, with an eagerness to learn, with a light in the eyes and a smile on the face. A child comes unafraid of mistakes, knowing the father will lovingly correct. A child comes with complete trust that will draw her to jump into the deep end of the pool, simply because she sees the open arms of the father, outstretched, beckoning her to come.

Satan hates that relationship with God. He introduces fear of mistakes, pride, and mistrust. He wants us to fear our relationship with God, to hide ourselves from God, and to build walls of sin separating ourselves from God.

Jesus says, “Believe in Me and come. I will eliminate the fear. I will seek you. I will smash the wall of sin and reunite you with the Father. But you must come by profession of Faith. You must jump into My outstretched arms.” Lois jumped into His arms a while back and this morning we saw her baptism as her outward profession of Faith that changed her inwardly.

This week, teachers and workers in Bible school, every minute, every breath, we have the opportunity to bring a child to Jesus! We have the opportunity to receive someone as a little child! May God help us to measure our words and extend love to every soul roaming these halls. I beg that God will hold Satan far from me so I will not dim the seeking light in one persons eyes – be they teacher or student. I pray not that I be encouraged, but that I encourage; not that I be understood, but that I understand; not that I be loved, but that I love… as the Father has loved me since the day I came as a child and humbled myself before Him. It’s an opportunity – what will we do with it this week?