

*Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...*

**2 October 2019**

**Holy Ground and Tiny Steps (Mt 18:1-5)**

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It is tempting perhaps to understand the Lord's word about "little ones" (v. 10) to apply only to children, especially when Jesus has called and has placed before them. However, from a missionary perspective, it would be better to understand Jesus' words as applying not just to those who are very young. As God holds a child in his arms, could it be seen as a visual illustration of God's spiritual children, especially those who are young in faith and are taking the faltering steps in the Way?

Living in the missions, the command found in the phrase in (v. 10) "see that you do not despise" is thought provoking. It is a warning expressed as a negative command, "see that you do not." "Despise" is a word that is reflective of looking down on someone as being inferior or not worthy of consideration. The command then really has to do with how we treat other believers who are somehow small.

There are many ways in which we look down on other believers. It is pretty easy for us to get on a spiritual high horse and look down on everyone who does not do everything the way we do. With a little bit of a Pharisaic touch, sometimes we come to the point that we think that if someone believes other than way we do or practices their faith a bit differently they are not as spiritual as I we are.

A soft warning is given to us by W.B. Yeates as he thinks of these little ones: "But, I being poor, have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly, because you tread on my dreams." Who is the greatest in the Kingdom could only be assessed from above – from God's perspective. Hence, Max Warren speaks of the holy ground of other cultures: "Our first task in approaching another people... is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on men's dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was here before our arrival." Can we come down from our high horse, become little and take a tiny step on this holy ground – Kingdom of heaven!

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