

A Child's Heart – Serving with Gladness

Ann C. Wayne

“Worship the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful songs.”

Psalms 100:2 (NIV)

It was a busy Sunday morning at church. All the Sunday School teachers in the Children's Department were hustling and bustling, trying to gather their children in one place to sit together during worship. Each class would present something special that they had worked on over the past year to share with the congregation; many of whom don't usually go up to the third floor to see the children's classes.

The babies were bouncing on the laps of their care givers, while the toddlers and preschoolers were fidgeting around on the pews. The older children were in and out of the pews, talking with friends or letting their parents know that they needed to sit with their class.

My assistant and I lined our class up according to the Commandment that they would be sharing, since this was what the children agreed to do. When worship began, with the children in their places, I took a sigh of relief. As we were singing the offertory hymn, young Michael began to work his way to the end of the pew where I was standing. I leaned over and asked, “Michael, where are you going?” He looked up with eager eyes and said, “I'm going to pray the offertory prayer,” and then he marched unreluctantly up to the pulpit and sat down on the chair where the Pastor or Music Minister sits. Nearing the last verse of the hymn, Michael's willingness struck me so clearly. It was evident that when our Music Minister asked him to pray the offertory prayer, he did not hesitate. There were no excuses, and he didn't question what God was calling him to do.

His prayer was that of an innocent child, asking God to bless the offering. A prayer straight from the heart of a child is an eye-opening experience. But more than the innocence was his willingness to serve.

I often think about this event. This should be a lesson to all Christians who are asked to serve. Why are we so reluctant to say yes when approached to serve on a committee, or participate in a program? Maybe we need to look at the innocence of a child's heart. Isn't this what Jesus would do. When the Father spoke to Jesus, He didn't turn down a chance to serve. In fact, he served all mankind and gave his life for us so that we could have eternal life.

Prayer

Father God,

As we see opportunities to serve you in any capacity, help us to keep our hearts open and be willing to do whatever it is that You ask of us. Amen

