

Children's Message  
9.24.06

Have you ever heard someone say, "We live in a 'Topsy Turvy' world?" Do you know what that means? It means that everything is the opposite of what people think it should be. Everything is backward or upside down. It means that things are confused and disorganized because everything is happening in the wrong order. Listen to this poem about a Topsy Turvy world:

**If Things Grew Down**

by Robert D. Hoeft

If things grew down instead of up,  
A dog would grow into a pup.  
A cat would grow into a kitten,  
Your sweater would grow into a mitten.  
A cow would grow into a calf,  
A whole would grow into a half.  
Big would grow into something small,  
And small would grow into nothing at all!

It would really be confusing if we lived in a world like that, wouldn't it? That must have been how the disciples felt one day when Jesus was trying to teach them a lesson about who was the greatest in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus and his disciples were walking along the road when Jesus heard them arguing among themselves. When they arrived at the house where they were going, Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" The disciples didn't answer because they were embarrassed. You see, they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. But they didn't have to say anything, because Jesus already knew.

"So you want first place, do you?" Jesus said. "Then you must take the last place. If you want to be the greatest, then you must be a servant to all." Then Jesus called a small child over to him and put his arms around the child. "Whoever accepts children like these in my name, also accepts me. And if he accepts me, then he also accepts the One who sent me."

The disciples must have thought, "What a Topsy Turvy world! If you want to be first, you have to go to the end of the line! If you want to be the greatest, you must become a servant! If you want to be important, you have to become like a little child!"

The teachings of Jesus are very different from the way most people thought back then and the way most people think today. Sometimes we think the most important thing is to be the first, to be the most beautiful, to be the smartest, or to be the GREATEST! That isn't what Jesus said. He said that the most important thing was to think of others first and ourselves last. If we can do this, then we will be great in the Kingdom of God.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer?