**Picking Up Jesus**

**Matthew 18:1-5  *And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.***

One of the greatest privileges in all of the world in the privilege of influencing the life of a child. And that is what the bus ministry is all about! God has given us a ministry that is one of the greatest of all and that is one of closest to His heart! And not only that, the parents of our bus kids have given us a great responsibility of caring for and influencing the lives of their children. And this privilege of influence is not to be taken lightly.

\* Jesus Christ Himself said here in verse 5, that when we receive a child in His name, we are receiving the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

\* I wish with all of my heart that I could cause all of us as bus workers to see and realize this truth this year. I wish that everyone of us could believe and grasp the awesomeness of that truth, because if we do, it will change our life and our vision of the bus ministry!

**Jesus said, To receive a little child is just like receiving Me! What does this mean?**

\* It means that no longer are we going out on Saturdays and visiting boys and girls. And no longer are we going out on Sunday mornings and picking up boys and teenagers and moms and dads. No, rather, we are now going and picking up Jesus!

\* If we knew that Jesus needed a ride on the bus to get to church, I would like to think that we would do whatever was necessary to get him a ride to church. And that ought to be the way that we look at every situation in the bus ministry. Every time we have an opportunity to pick up a bus kid, it is an opportunity to pick us Jesus.

\* Jesus was saying this to us, Every time that you go to the dirtiest trailer park or the nicest house in town and pick up the kid who needs to come, and who needs to hear, and who needs to be saved, that will be just like you going and picking up Me.

\* If were not willing to love our bus kids with all of our heart, then we arent willing to love Jesus with all of our heart either.

\* But every time that we love them, and every time that we listen to them, and every time that we do something for them, we are doing it *for* Jesus, and we are doing it *to* Jesus!

**As we begin this year, I hope that we can start it with a new perspective that everything we do is being done to Jesus.**

\* That in our minds, every child we pick up, we are picking up Jesus.

\* Every time that those Precious kids look into our eyes and see a heart full of love, that is Jesus seeing our heart full of love.

\* Jesus said, To pick up a child in my name is just like picking up Me. To love a child in my name is just like loving me.

**If we will truly get a hold of this truth, it can and will change us and why we do what we do in the bus ministry! Everything that we do in life ought to be done for Jesus Christ, but it is a whole lot easier to remember why you do what you do for Jesus Christ when your not only doing it *for* Him, but when your doing it *to* Him as well!**