The Psalmist writes, "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm." The Old Testament Prophets were sent to expose moral corruption and proclaim a message of justice, repentance and worship of the One True God, accompanied with a warning of severe consequences for disobedience.

Under the New Covenant, however, the privilege is no longer limited to a select few; the Lord has commissioned and equipped every single believer to declare His Message to humanity.

He has also extended the same love and protective boundary. Speaking to those who would try to inflict harm, Matthew eighteen warns, "It would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea."

It is important to capture the extraordinary gravity of this sin in Jesus' illustration. Some commentators have suggested He is speaking to those in the Church who are status oriented.

But in context, He uses a little child both as the prerequisite for kingdom citizenship, and as the measure for greatness. "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

During the Last Supper, Christ addresses His Disciples using the same term, "little children," to remind them of what He had taught previously, especially the command to love one another.

Finally, in a discourse about John the Baptist, the Lord honoured His relative, saying, "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist." But He goes on to say, "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

How can this be? We have just seen how humility is the standard by which God measures greatness. John certainly proved himself in this regard; he truly believed he was not even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals.

Yet despite his personal merit, John could never claim to be perfect. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."