

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them.

1. The gospel is a sequence of events that lead us to the person of Jesus
 - a. Many of the stories are repeated in the synoptic gospels because of their importance
 - i. *Matt 19:13-15*
 - ii. *Luke 18:15-17*
2. Mark 10 begins with the teaching on marriage and divorce
 - a. It's not a coincidence to speak of the children immediately after
 - b. Children are the fruitful result of the 1+1
 - i. This is important because our choices don't just impact us, but everyone around us
 - c. We mentioned how Jesus raises the value of women to an equal

- i. Here Jesus raises the value of children as the ones who enter heaven
 - ii. Like women, children in that day were considered property
 1. Not important or valuable
 2. Maybe because there were plenty of them, they were taken for granted
 - iii. In that society children were often treated with contempt and viewed as property. A papyrus letter written by a man named Hilarion to his expectant wife, Alis, dated June 17, 1 b.c., instructs her: "if it was a male child let it [live]; if it was female, cast it out."
 - iv. In ancient Rome, fathers held absolute power over their children. This power was called "Patria Potestas". A father could condemn a child to die simply by commanding it be done. A case where this happened was recorded as late as 60 A.D. This practice was finally outlawed in 375 A.D. (Carr)
3. This was the prevalent thought of the day
4. It's clear to see that the disciples thought so too
 - a. Get these kids out of here
 - i. Jesus is on important business
 1. We could be here all day...

5. Jesus' response is shocking to everyone
6. He rebukes the disciples and gives the children their rightful place
7. **Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them**
8. This passage properly has been called the Magna Carta of the children, the Bill of Rights of children everywhere in the world (Steadman)
9. He raises the value of children and restores them to their rightful place
 - a. Place of value
 - b. Place of love
 - c. Place of security
 - d. Place of acceptance
 - e. This was not something new**
 - f. **O.T Psalm 127:3** Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.
⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So *are* the children of one's youth.
⁵ Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them
 - g. **N.T Mark 9:36** Taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, "**Whoever receives one child like this in My**

name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me.

10. It appears that the parents of the young ones brought them to Jesus not out of a physical needs
 - a. They cared for the souls of these young ones and realize that Jesus has that ability to touch and bless the soul
 - i. Mind, will, emotions
 1. That is a task for God alone
 - a. That's what they were seeking
 - b. He touched them as He touched the leper & the woman with the issue of blood
 - i. It's an intimate touch, a loving, healing virtuous touch
11. It's comforting to know that despite public opinion, some parents wanted the best for their children
12. Some today feel that their children should chose what to believe
 - a. It's the parents responsibility to teach the children
 - i. That's our role
13. Many parents claim they want the best, but only those who put it into practice mean it
14. I believe that most parents love their kids and want the best for them

- a. They just need a bit of help on how to bless their children

15. Those who love and want to bless their children should consider the following

a. Pray for the little ones

- i. Our first step is to bring the little ones to Jesus

1. Praying for them

- a. Their protection
- b. Good friends
- c. Good teachers...

2. Praying with them

- a. It's important they hear you pray

b. Teach them the scriptures

- i. Telling them Bible stories
 - 1. Reading to them and with them
- ii. Learn God's Word together
 - 1. It's food for the soul

16. Teaching my kids creates a bond between us

17. Listen to what God instructs parent to do

- a. **Deut 6:1-8** These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to

observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

18. It's my responsibility to teach my own

- a. I'm speaking with another pastor who says many of the jr. high kids at his church are dropped off by parents
 - i. As if it's the churches job to teach

- 19. We've had parents of teenagers request that we "hang out" with their kids

- 20. Some today want us to minister to their 20+ year olds
 - a. It's ridiculous
 - i. Ministers will do whatever they can
 - ii. But the primary responsibility is on the parents

- 21. How important is it for parents to bring their young ones to Jesus?
 - a. According to a recent Gallup Survey:
 - i. Nineteen out of twenty people who became Christians did so before the age of twenty-five.
 - ii. At age twenty-five, one in 10,000 will become believers;
 - iii. at thirty-five, one in 50,000;
 - iv. at forty-five, one in 200,000;
 - v. at fifty-five, one in 300,000;
 - vi. at seventy-five, one in 700,000. (Carr)

- 22. Praying with and teaching our children about God at an early age is critical

- 23. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it

24. Speaking to the 12 and all of us, unless we become as little children and receive the kingdom as little children, we will not enter

25. We watch how children behave and learn from them

a. How do children receive things?

i. With simplicity & sincerity

1. Simple faith, doubting nothing
2. When you tell a child something, they generally believe you
 - a. We're to have that same faith
3. Give a child permission to jump into a pool or dive into the kids area, there is no hesitation...
 - a. That's how we are to be with God
 - b. Not because we're gullible, but because we've seen that our God is able
 - c. If He needs to part the red sea, He will
 - d. If He needs to send the ravens, He will
 - e. If He needs to bring water from the rock, He will

- f. I just need to believe because He is able
- 4. When I'm invited to a wedding or out to dinner at someone else's expense, I go and enjoy with simplicity
- 5. The early church lived like this
- 6. **Acts 2:46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and **simplicity** of heart
 - a. That's how we enter & live in God's kingdom
 - i. With a simple believing heart

ii. **With sincerity**

- 1. Nothing withheld
- 2. Without deceit
 - a. Nothing withheld from God
 - b. Offering ourselves totally and completely
- 3. **Joshua 24:14** Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in **sincerity** and in truth
- 4. **Phil 1:9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in

knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be **sincere** and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God

26. There is a joy in children that we can learn from

- a. They may be happy with toys
- b. Watch how they light up when they see their parents after work
 - i. That's how we should be with God
 - ii. We light up as we spend time with God
 - 1. Collectively and privately

27. If you need some of that joy back

- a. Restore to me the joy of my salvation Psalm 51:12

28. An interesting thing about children is that no matter what they do, they'll always be yours

- a. This is an important point because once you've had a child or adopted a child, a legal transaction takes place
- b. The child may be strong in some areas and weak in others, they're still your child

- c. They may not need special attention or they may require 24/hour care, they're still your child
 - i. When they break things
 - ii. When they disobey you
 - iii. When they accuse you & ignore you
 - 1. You don't kick them out, you teach them

29. This is a bit of security for us as children and what God does for us & with us

30. The result is, He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them

31. He didn't ignore any of them

- a. All who were around Him were blessed

32. He did much more than a simple touch to bless

- a. **He took them into His arms**
- b. Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah
- c. **Is 40:11** He tends his flock like a shepherd:
 - He gathers the lambs in his arms
 - and carries them close to his heart;
 - he gently leads those that have young

33. We are God's children, He wants to carry us and bless us also

34. What it takes is a child like faith