

MARK 10:13-16 THE LOVE OF GOD FOR CHILDREN.

INTO:

- This is recorded in all 3 synoptic gospels.
- Notice the surroundings, in the house, still in the family relations setting. From children as examples, to marriage, husband and wife, man and woman joined together, and now again children.

READ **MK. 13-16**

- How interesting that the Spirit of God leads us from marriage directly into children and the kingdom of God.
- the heart of the Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus and to excuse divorce, to separate what God has joined together, while Jesus brings the family together that He might enfold and bless the fruit of the union, children.
- If Jesus desired to teach infant baptism, here was the setting and the place to teach it, yet we find no hint of baptism, no example of nor any warrant to do it. (Jn. 4:1-2)

VS. 13 *Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.*

- It was customary for Israelites to bring their children to the Rabbis for a blessing, although children were not highly valued in the sense that they were not an economic advantage.
- Doing so with Jesus displays the reverence, respect, and esteem the common people had for Him.
- The disciples were trying to save Jesus from what they felt was trivial, unimportant, unworthy which brought a strong rebuke from Him.
- They felt He had much more important things to do and too busy to give children any of His time, strength and attention.
- Are we bringing our children to Jesus?
- Parents watch your priorities, keep your devotion, let your purity and passion for God and His kingdom, be obviously displayed in your home and life.

VS. 14 & 15 *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."*

- Child, do you see Jesus loves you, desires you to come to Him, He accepts you as you come, just as you are.
- He is not just Mom or Dad's Savior; He is your Savior.
- Jesus had previously given instruction and examples of the value of children, but the disciples seemed to forget or just were not intentional about applying His instruction.
 - See VS. 36 & 42
- What in our lives may prevent children coming to Jesus?

- For this Jesus was "greatly displeased". = angry, irate, or outraged. A state of anger which is aroused by injustice.
- What does Jesus think of the injustice to children today?.....
- For of such is the kingdom of God.
 - Those of such/like simplicity and trust?
 - Those in the kingdom are childlike?
 - All children go to heaven?
 - Born with a fallen nature.
 - Ps. 51:5, Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.
 - Sinfulness is not a condition that children grow into, we are all born sinners
 - People are not sinners because they sin, but they sin because they are sinners.
 - We have never had to teach our children to disobey or say no, they re born with the selfish sinful nature..
 - Age of understanding and accountability?
 - Deut. 1:39, Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.
 - 2 Sam. 12:23, But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."
 - ALL 3:
- The attributes of a child.
- Children do not complicate things, they do not over think asking for answers for the what ifs, or the whys. They are so willing to just believe, to trust and obey.
- Children by nature show a humble dependance, a willingness to follow, to obey, wonderful trust and a desire to believe.
- They are helpless, unable to save themselves, dependent on the mercy, care and love of another.
- The first thing a child does when hurt or threatened is to run to its father or mother.
- As a child desires to get strength, skill, knowledge and endurance of adulthood, the man should seek to have the faith, trust, dependance, forgiveness, and contentment of the child.
- Children are not in charge, they reap the benefits of another's leading, decisions, knowledge and strength with simple trusting.
- Of course, the teaching is to be child-like, not childish.
- Jesus' stating that one could not enter the kingdom of God unless they came as a child was completely contrary to the complicated system and practice of works the Pharisees had developed and demanded of the people.

- To come as a child, free, trusting, believing, just responding to the invitation of God's goodness and acceptance was totally foreign to the devout Jew.
- The righteousness the Jewish system demanded of everyone, works, keeping the law, ritual sacrifices, and a understanding of the law,
- The child could not produce, thus keeping them out of their kingdom which they believed was the kingdom of God.
- Jesus was here highlighting the truth that salvation was not of works but grace. A free gift of God.
- Little children being examples of entering the kingdom of God by grace alone, not of any good or works they had done is a analogy that clearly demonstrates that salvation is entirely by grace alone.
- This teaching of Jesus stands in sharp contrast to the incident that immediately follows it. Also, in all 3 synoptic gospels. The Rich Young Ruler who sought to earn his entrance into eternal life.

VS. 16 *And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.*

- **"He took them up in His arms."** to enfold to embrace in one's arms. He embraced them, praying and blessing.
- Notice the displayed love of Christ for children.
 - Let them come and keep coming, takes them up into His arms, lays His hands on them, blesses and continues to bless them, He prays.

CONCLUSIOIN:

- Never discount a soul, thinking Jesus in not interested or too busy for them, thinking they are too unworthy to bring them to Christ.
- Little children are valued with Jesus and so should they be with us, both as individuals and a church.
- If the busiest and most glorious man who ever walked this earth took time to touch, bless, and pray for them, so ought we take time to bless children.
 - SUNDAY SCHOOL, YOUTH GROUP, VBS.
- Prov. 22:6
 - Train, laying the ground work, the first stones.
 - In the way he SHOULD go.
- Psalm. 127:4
- Oh, to bless our children, a sign of God's joining together, to bless them by our union, by our repeated bringing them to Christ in practice and in example.
- Not to worship them or be led by them, but to bless them with Jesus.
- We ae to retain the child like faith and trust through out our Christian lives, but remember we also must be warriors, we have been born on the battle field, we must learn to fight with Christ our armor, to the victor belongs the spoils.