

Jesus Loves The Little Children

Mark 10:13-16 (cf. Mt. 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17)

The context: Jesus just finished dealing with the issue of marriage and divorce. Next, He immediately begins blessing children brought to Him. The connection between marriage, divorce and children is obvious. In a divorce, children are often the ones who suffer the most.

Children are a **blessing from God**—“*Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD...*” (Ps. 127:3). Children are **not a burden** to be endured—they are a blessing to be enjoyed! We are so blessed by the little ones here at BBC! I only wish we had MORE of them.

Definition of a baby: "A baby is a small member of the family that makes love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, the bankroll smaller, the home sweeter, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for."

The devil is waging an all-out war for our children. It is becoming all too common to hear reports of gang violence... school shootings... children addicted to drugs... and children being abused and molested.

This should alert us to do all we can to protect our most prized possession—Our children. **They are our future**... future pastors/missionaries... future S.S. teachers... deacons... choir members... etc. If we fail to raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, the work of God will be greatly crippled after we adults are gone.

I. **The BRINGING of the children** (v. 13).

- A. The **TASK** in bringing. These parents were fulfilling their responsibility to get their children to Jesus. NOT AN EASY JOB!
 - 1. The Bible commands us to teach the things of God to our children (Dt. 6:1-8). That command is repeated in Eph. 6:4.
 - 2. S.S., Junior Church, VBS, and EPIC are just as important as any adult ministry. No amount of effort seeking to reach children for Christ is wasted effort.
- B. The **TOUCH** of blessing. Every parent should pray for the blessing of God's touch on their children (v. 16).

1. How sad so many parents are more concerned about the intellectual development of their children, but neglect their spiritual development.
 - Many parents want their children to excel in sports, but couldn't care less about them serving the Lord.
2. Parents should do everything they can to have their children exposed to the Gospel—
 - **Start early! Don't delay.** Prov. 8:17—*those that seek me early shall find me.* My daughter Alice was born on a Monday, June 1, 1970. She was in church the next Sunday.

According to a recent Gallup survey: 19 out of 20 people receive Christ before the age of 25. At age 25, only one in 10,000 will become Christians; at 35, only one in 50,000; at 45, one in 200,000; at 55, one in 300,000; at 75, one in 700,000.

- Bring your children to church on a regular basis.
- Give them every opportunity to be in S.S., VBS, EPIC.
- Pray for them and with them. Read the Bible with them.
- Be consistent in your own life as a Christian. Show Christ is a priority in your life. If a parent shows little interest for Christ or church, it is likely their children will have no desire to follow Christ either.

Timothy was saved as a child because he had a mother and grandmother who made sure he knew the Scriptures. *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also... And that **from a child** thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”* (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15).

II. The **BARRING** the children (vs. 13-15)

A. The **INTERFERENCE** of the disciples (v. 13b).

1. It was not the scribes or Pharisees who hindered children from being brought to Christ—It was Christ's disciples! Strange when you consider what Jesus told them just one chapter earlier (see Mk. 9:34-37).
2. WHY did they try to stop children being brought to Christ? Did think Jesus was too busy to take time for children. Did they think children were less important than adults?
3. While the disciples openly hindered children from getting to Jesus, some today subtly hinder children from coming to Christ—Teachings in public schools; inconsistent or hypocritical living by their parents.



B. The **INDIGNATION** of Christ (v. 14a).

1. The disciples rebuked the parents—Jesus in turn rebuked the disciples!
2. He told the disciples in no uncertain terms little children are valuable—They belong to the kingdom of God! (See Matthew 18:1-6).

C. The **ILLUSTRATION** of the children (v. 14b-15). Jesus used this incident to illustrate how all must come to Jesus for salvation—They must come to Christ in simple child-like faith.

1. Children are trusting... humble... and dependent. They are so trusting, they have to be warned not to talk to strangers. They are so humble, they will readily accept whatever they are told by adults. They are so dependent, that they simply rest in the ability of those around them to meet their needs. (Ill. They don't worry over food, clothing or shelter. They don't worry about who will pay the bills.)
2. That is the same way a person must to come to Jesus. For a person to be saved, they must (1) lay down their pride and

humble themselves before God. (2) They must humble themselves and admit their works and religious activity can not save them. (3) They must come to the place where they, like a little child, simply look to Jesus in pure faith, trusting that He will do everything He has promised to do.

III. The BLESSING the children (v. 16 cf. Prov. 10:22).

I don't know of a greater blessing than to see God blessing my children. "*The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich*" (Prov. 10:22). No man is truly rich apart from the blessing of God!

But this can only happen when children are brought to Jesus in the first place. That is where it starts!

SUMMATION: After one of D.L. Moody's evangelistic meetings he was asked if any were saved. Moody answered that 2½ had been saved. "You mean two adults and one child?" someone asked. "No," said Moody, "I mean two children and one adult. The children still have their whole lives to live for Jesus, but the adult's life was half gone."

It is great to see people saved no matter how old or young they are. But when children are won to Jesus, have their whole lifetime to live for Christ. Who knows where that child's life will lead...

Edward Kimball was a Sunday school teacher in Chicago. He spent hours of his free time visiting the young street urchins in Chicago's inner city, trying to win them to Christ. D.L. Moody began attending Kimball's S.S. class. In 1858, Kimball won Moody to Christ.

Moody grew up to be a preacher. In 1879, Moody won a young man to the Lord named F. B. Meyer, who also grew up to be a preacher. Meyer won a young man by the name of J. W. Chapman to Christ. Chapman grew up to be a preacher. In one of his meetings a Chicago baseball player named Billy Sunday got saved.

Billy Sunday became one of the greatest evangelists of the 20th century. In 1924, he held a revival in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was so successful that the Charlotte Businessmen's Club formed out of that crusade.

In 1934 they invited Mordecai Ham to hold a tent meeting in Charlotte. In that tent revival a teenage boy was saved named Billy Graham.

It all started with bringing a child to Jesus in Sunday School.

Jesus loves the little children.

Do you love them enough to bring them to Jesus?