

MARK TEN, FOURTEEN

Intro: (Read Mark 10:13-16.)

There are three groups and One Person who attract our attention in this account:

- 1) The Person: the Lord Jesus Christ. He was the center of things wherever He was.
- 2) The parents--probably mostly young parents.
- 3) The children--young, but of all of the early ages.
- 4) The disciples.

Let us think about each of these in the order of their appearance in the account.

I. THE PARENTS (Mark 10:13).

We are told what they did: "They brought young children to Him."

We are told why they did it: "That He should touch them." Matthew adds, "And pray." Touching throughout the Gospels is mentioned as the way the Lord met the needs of people.

We are told about the reception they had: "And His disciples rebuked those that brought them." They censured the parents severely, trying to make them feel that they were doing the wrong thing.

We are not told that they had been taught to do this. In fact, they would also have been censured by their own religious leaders for doing this. These people were Jewish.

Why did they come?

They came because they knew that the Lord's blessing was what their children needed. And note: This was not just one opinion; this was true of all who came. The number is not given. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HAVING CHILDREN! Cf. Gen. 5:22a,

"And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methusaleh . ."

Did they do the wrong thing?

II. THE DISCIPLES (Mark 10:13-15).

These men were being trained by the Lord to enter with Him into His work. They had been especially chosen by the Lord. They had been given great power, and had experienced a great deal. BUT TO THE MAN THEY DID THE WRONG THING IN THIS SITUATION! They did everything that they could to convince the parents that they were doing the wrong thing. A ministry to

to children was completely out of the question at this point.

Were they right?

Absolutely not! "When Jesus saw it, He was much displeased" --the only time this is said about the Lord Jesus Christ during His entire earthly ministry. Apparently nothing ever displeased Him more than this.

The Lord taught His disciples many things, but nothing having to do with people was any more important than this.

Now let us turn our attention to

### III. THE LORD.

His words are spoken to the disciples.

- A. First, about the children. He wants them to come. His desire is so strong that He states it both positively and negatively: "Permit the little children . . . and forbid them not."

It is forever established that the Lord wants us to bring our children to Him, and that we cannot bring them too soon. Nor can we bring them at the wrong time.

- B. Second, about the kingdom of God.

The Lord uses this situation to do some teaching. "Of such" indicates that the Lord is not only talking about the children, but He is now enlarging this to point to anyone who desires entrance into the kingdom of God. **THEY HAVE TO BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN.**

It is natural for little children to do as they are told.

It is natural for a little child to recognize his need for help, and to accept help when it is offered.

The confidence of a child to believe what he is told is a delight to see.

The sophistication of adults can even be seen in the disciples.

Cf. Matt. 18:3, 6, 10, 14.

### IV. THE CHILDREN.

Finally, what He did: "And He took them up in His arms (as a Hebrew father would do), put His hands upon them, and blessed them."

Would you not like to have heard Him pray?

And what do you think happened to these children?

Concl: Why is the recorded in the Gospels--to embarrass the disciples?

No. It must be for the instruction of all:

- 1) Parents.
- 2) Who would serve the Lord.

Nothing can delight the Lord any more than for us to bring our children to Him.

How do we do this?

- 1) By our example.
- 2) By our teaching.
- 3) By our prayers.
- 4) By getting them to Bible classes where they can hear the Word of God--Sunday School, children's home Bible clubs, etc.

No ministry is complete which does not include the evangelizing of boys and girls, and then training them to know and love and obey the Word of God.

Our homes are where this must begin, and the fathers are to take the lead. Cf. Eph. 6:1-4.