

THE LITTLE CHILDREN
Mark 10:13-16

Intro: I was impressed while reading this the other day -- the simplicity of it, the heart-warming character of the story (to think of the Lord Jesus Christ with the little children -- even babies). But also the importance of it. For the Lord Jesus to do something with children, and for Him to say something about it -- and then to see that the Spirit of God has placed this account in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke as well as this Gospel, indicates its great importance.

Much of our work at CB is with children:

- Sunday School,
- Children's Churches,
- Training Hour,
- Wednesday night ministries,
- VBS,
- Camp,
- COP,
- Children's Home Bible Clubs,

and many other related activities.

BUT, the important thing is to know why we are doing this.

Is it just because we have done it for many years? Or, is it just to give the children something to do? Or, is it to keep families at CBC? Or, do we do it because there is a burden, a deep sense of the necessity AND of the urgency -- a recognition that we do this because it is the will of our Lord and that we cannot be faithful to Him and to His Word IF we are going to neglect the children?

Our Lord was training His disciples.

They had much to learn. They did not always do the right thing. But they had to be trained -- and this incident was a vital part of their training, as it should be of ours!

I. THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT.

It includes: our Lord,
the parents,
the children,
and the disciples.

"They," the parents, "brought young children," meaning both children and infants, "to him," the Lord Jesus, "that he," the Lord, "should touch them." And Matthew 19:13 adds, "and pray." Then what happened? "And his

disciples rebuked those that brought them."

Thus, we have all of the necessary details regarding this incident.

— Now let us look at each in particular.

II. THE PARENTS.

It is impossible to know who they were -- whether believers themselves or not, but one thing is certain and that is that they believed that their children could benefit from this personal contact with the Lord.

Parents usually want the best for their children.

Parents will often come for their children who will not come for themselves.

The Lord and His Word and His people have an attraction for parents! This is obvious, and this is something that we need to know.

III. THE DISCIPLES.

They obviously felt that they were doing the right thing. To them, this was an unnecessary interruption in the Lord's life which was already to busy. If He could do without one thing, this was it.

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 Note the preceding account. How much more important such discussions seem than bringing children to the Lord.

It reflects what was probably a common attitude of the day -- that the things of God were for adults, but not for children. In many respects these men were the cream, and so we can assume that their ignorance on this subject was common in that day.

There was evidently the feeling that children could wait until they were older -- that the Lord did not work in the hearts of children. "Rebuked" means to censure, to warn them, to demand that they stop doing what they were doing.

What did the Lord feel and say and do?

IV. THE LORD.

A. How He felt -- "much displeased."

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 This is rarely said of the Lord -- that He was aroused, indignant, angry! Thus, He not only objected to what the disciples were doing; He strongly objected!

What better evidence do we have that this was a violation of His will? Even the disciples knowledge of the OT should have made them feel differently.

B. What He said.

1. First, about the children. See v. 14b.
2. Second, about adults and children. See v. 15. Children do not need to become like adults or wait until they are adults; adults need to become like children, and children need to come just as they are.

C. What He did. See v. 16.

How this should cheer the heart of every parent! It is wonderful that we are not left with the bad example of the disciples, but with the loving action of the Lord -- a truly wonderful picture to contemplate.

How long this took, we do not know. But we can be sure that the Lord took every child and laying His hands on them, and taking the little ones in His arms, prayed for them.

Illus: With Ernie Knopf I read last Friday,
 "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

I said to Ernie (who has sheep), "You understand that, don't you, Ernie?" And he said, "Boy, do I!"

D. The children.

1. They needed to come. Every child is a sinner with the most tragic potential for sin. The Lord Jesus is the only answer.
2. It was important that they come. Our Lord's words indicate this.
3. They should come as soon as possible.

There is no other answer to the needs of our own day.

Concl: Is it just a coincidence that the following story comes right here? The rich young ruler was once a child, but now he will not come. What a lesson for us all!