

Let The Children Come Unto Me.

Mark 10: 13-16.

Sunday morning, April 27, 2008.

I. Seeking the Lord's blessing for our little ones.

A. We do not know who these people were.

Tradition has assumed they were the mothers, but there could have been fathers, caretakers and relatives among them.

B. Luke records that the children were infants.

As such the disciples thought this a waste of their time, and the Lord's Infants stood nothing to gain from the Lord in their estimate.

C. The parents came in faith. They came, desiring the blessing of God in the lives of their little ones, and they sought that blessing in the person of Christ.

The Lord never disappoints genuine faith.

D. Touching, or more explicitly the laying on of hands, was the way blessing was conveyed in OT times, and going forward into the NT, as in ordination.

The Greek adds a little more color to the picture given in the NKJV.

“He took them up one by one in His arms, laid His hands on them, and tenderly blessed them.” Vs. 16.

Application.

1. Do you seek and desire the blessing of God in the lives of your children?

Do you do so by bringing them into the house of the Lord?

2. Do you seek it in faith; faith anticipates that it shall receive the blessing of the Lord.

Do you under estimate the value of your faith in relationship to your children and others?

See Mark 2:4,5 on the value of the faith of friends.

Consider this passage on the value of the faith of parents.

II. Obstacles in the pathway of blessing. Vs. 13.

A. Not infrequently does the Lord place obstacles in the pathway of our faith so as to develop it all the more.

At the same time He will not allow our faith to be extinguished.

B. The disciples were such an obstacle to these parents.

Not infrequently those closest to the Lord become obstacles to others.

C. This is one of three recorded instances where the disciples would have kept God's needy sheep from obtaining the blessing of God, which they sought by faith in Christ.

1. They had done so with the Syro-Phoenician woman who came to seek the blessing of God by faith in Christ in behalf of her demon possessed daughter.

“Send her away” they told the Lord. Matt. 15: 23.

Here too her faith is tried and sustained.

2. They also did with blind Bartimeus and his blind companion. Upon hearing that the Lord was passing by, they cried out to the Lord for His mercy. Again the broader company of disciples tell them to be quiet, thus putting an obstacle in the path of their faith. They cry out all the more and the Lord stops by

them

and heals them. Matt. 20:29-34.

Application:

1. Do not be disheartened by the obstacles put in the pathway of your faith.
Use them as opportunities to sink the roots of your faith that much deeper.
2. Let it not surprise you when those obstacles come from those closest to the Lord.
Let not your heart become bitter, nor let it turn against the Lord's Church or people.
3. Beware that you do not become such an obstacle. Matt. 18:1-7

III. The sphere of salvation blessing. Vs. 14.

A. Here very clearly the Lord Jesus includes little children as the subjects of the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is the sphere of God's sovereign and saving rule. It has a heavenly and an earthly side to it; a spiritual and a tangible side; a visible and an invisible side. The visible church and the work of the Holy Spirit respectively. Here it means that both the sphere and the fullness of gospel promises and blessings belong even to these little ones.

1. By sphere we mean in OT terms the nation of Israel, and in NT terms the Church of Christ.
2. By fullness of gospel promises and blessing we mean the totality of the

saving

work and rule of God, bringing us outwardly into the sphere of salvation, and changing us inwardly by regeneration, all the way to our resurrection and glorification.

B. Here is the ground for baptizing infants.

On what ground did the Lord impart the blessing of God to these little ones other than His own covenant faithfulness which extends even to little infants?

It is on the same ground that we baptize them and include them in the sphere of salvation.

Application:

Here also is the ground for including little ones in the worship of God rather than hauling them off to nursery or children's church.

IV. Receiving salvation's blessing.

You must receive it as a little child.

A. This means to receive it with a genuine trustful simplicity.

It means to walk with this God in simple faith and trust, living day by day out of His provisions.

B. It means to receive it with an unassuming humility; modest and unpretentious.

Application:

Have you come to the things of God's kingdom in this spirit?

Do you still walk in this spirit?

Only in this spirit can we be great in the kingdom of God. Matt 18:1.