

# Suffer the Little Children

## Mark 10:13-16

### I. The Problem with Children

The disciples were actually holding the parents and pushing them back, trying to stop them from bringing their children to Jesus. Why? Very simply, the disciples saw a problem with children. They looked upon children just as many others look upon them: they felt the children could contribute nothing to the adult world. In adult affairs, children were useless, unimportant; therefore they should not disturb the adults when they were busy at work.

1. Children are totally dependent. These children were so young they could contribute nothing significant.
2. Children cause frivolous pride. Parents often have a frivolous pride over their children.
3. Children interfere with work. The disciples knew that this was one of the major problems with children.

**DEEPER STUDY #1** (10:13) **Brought** (προσπηρερο | ): to bring to ; to bring unto. It is the word used in connection with offerings. The idea is that whatever is brought is being brought as an offering. It is a dedication to God (cp. Matthew 5:23-24).

**DEEPER STUDY #2** (10:14) **Displeased—Indignation** (ε | γανακτε | σεν): to be indignant; to; is to feel pain; to grieve; to be displeased, sore displeased, and much displeased. The word is very strong, expressing deep, even violent emotion. The Lord was moved with indignation toward the disciples for what they were doing. Note two facts indicated by this experience.

- 1.Strong indignation against sin and injustice is sometimes justified.
- 2.Not being moved with indignation toward sin and injustice is sometimes a gross wrong.

### II. The Truth About Children

1. (10:14) **Children**: children are to be invited to Jesus. Jesus said let the children come and forbid them not. The word “forbid” (κο | λυο | <sup>PWS: 1570</sup>) means to hinder, to prevent. The tense is a *present imperative*, a continuous command: stop hindering, stop preventing the children from coming to me.

A.Jesus called for and received children. They were welcome

B.Jesus rebuked those who stopped and disregarded the children.

C.The benefits of bringing children to Christ are innumerable. Just a few major ones are as follows:

- i.A child learns love: that he is loved by God.
- ii.A child grows, learning power and triumph.
- iii.A child grows, learning hope and faith.
- iv.A child grows, learning the truth of life and endurance (service).
- v.A child grows, learning trust and endurance: that life is full of temptations and pitfalls which can easily rob us of joy, destroying our lives and the fulfillment of our purposes.
- vi.A child grows, learning peace

D.There are several reasons why parents do not bring their children to Christ.

- i.Some parents (in civilized as well as uncivilized parts of the world) are not aware of the only living and true God.
- ii.Some parents have heard the truth, but they have rejected Christ.
- iii.Some parents do believe, at least mentally, but they are complacent and lethargic.
- iv.Some parents are believers, but unfortunately they are immature and inconsistent in their Christian life.
- v.Some parents are liberal-minded. They are not willing to influence and mold their child’s thinking spiritually.

E. There are two great errors with all five of the above reasons.

- i. The philosophy underlying every one of the reasons is false. Any parent who does not bring his child to Christ is following a false philosophy of life and is not facing reality.
- ii. A child's mind is molded by those he is with.

2. (10:14) **Children**: children are citizens of God's kingdom. Jesus said, "of such [little children] is the kingdom of God."

A. Little children show what a man must be like to enter the Kingdom of God. The nature, character, and traits that are essential to get into heaven are seen in little children.

- i. A little child is dependent and trusting. He is totally dependent.
- ii. A little child is responsive and submissive
- iii. A little child is obedient and learning
- iv. A little child is humble and forgiving. He is not interested in prominence, fame, power, wealth, or position. He does not push himself forward