

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Matthew 19:13-15

(cf. Mark 10:13–31; Luke 18:15–30)

I. The Disciples' E_____ (v. 13)

- a. **children were brought to Him** = "they were bringing" = Imperfect Tense = continuous ongoing action (cf. Mark 10:13; Luke 18:15)
- b. **children** = **paidion** (**παιδίον**) = "a child, normally below the age of puberty" = a diverse group of ages (cf. Luke 18:15)
- c. **so that He might lay His hands on them and pray** = customary Jewish blessing (cf. Gen. 45:8-22)
- d. Although Jesus had power and authority (power under control), He was gentle enough for parents to bring their children to Him (cf. Matt. 17:18; 18:2–3; John 4:50)
- e. **rebuked** = **epitimaō** (**ἐπιτίμαω**) = "rebuke, denounce, give a warning implying a threat"

II. Jesus' C_____ (v. 14)

- a. **Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me** = double commands to intensify their meaning
 - i. "He was **indignant**" or "**greatly displeased**" (cf. Mark 10:14)
 - ii. The blood of Jesus was shed for the Least, the Last, and the Lost! (cf. Matt. 8:1–4, 5–13, 28–34; 9:18–26, 27–34; 15:21–28; 17:14–18)
- b. **for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these** = The main thrust is that salvation requires HUMILITY! (cf. Matt. 18:3-4; cf. Ps. 51:16-17)

c. The Age of Accountability or Decision:

- i. God is sovereign in salvation AND man is responsible to make a decision (cf. John 1:12-13; Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 13:48; Matt. 22:14; John 6:44; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:4; Col. 3:12; 2 Thess. 2:13)
- ii. Therefore, it is God's choice who will be saved and Scripture tells us that He has chosen to save the "innocent" (with the blood of Christ). Children and those with the minds of children who are incapable of choosing between evil and good (cf. Deut. 1:39; Jer. 19:4-5a; Isa. 7:16; Jonah 4:11; Job 3:11-19; 2 Sam. 12:23; cf. Ps. 16:8–11; 23:6; Acts 2:25–28)

III. Jesus' B_____ (v. 15)

- a. As a display of God's love for the little children, Jesus held back the crowds, rebuked His disciples, stopped His journey to Jerusalem and the cross and **¹⁵After laying His hands on them, He departed from there.**