

# Orphan Sunday 2017

## Mark 10.13-16

### Jesus thinks kids are awesome

- Recognized them – they too are image bearers and neither irritations nor idols (v.13)
  - Psalm 127 – heirlooms (not irritations) and arrows (not idols)
- Defended them – from those who would not see them as image bearers
- Valued them – they are models for us and heirs of the Kingdom
  - He saw their potential and future – glorious beings that are not mere mortals
- Blessed them – affection, attention, affirmation
  - Think about that progression as you think about the first 15 years of life

### Joining Jesus

- Recognize them – when we see them, we often see Him
- Defend them – who are those who have no voice? No protection? No provision? No nurture? We care for them
  - Objection: This is Jesus we're talking about and I'm not Him
  - True, but it's in the Law, the Prophets, the Wisdom Literature, and the NT
    - 40x in OT and NT
  - This is what His followers do because we are like Him and therefore do what He does
    - When we first meet the mention of the adoption and bringing up of foundlings, this work appears not as a novelty, but as one long practiced. It is true that the heathen also used to take care of exposed children, but for the purposes of bringing them up as gladiators or prostitutes, or to use them in their own service.... Christians brought up the children whom they took charge of for the Lord, and for a respectable and industrious life (G. Uhlhorn, Christian Charity in the Ancient Church, p. 186).
    - It is NOT GUILT – it is invitation to know Him, see Him, and follow Him
- Value them – do you see their future?
  - 15-20M orphans in world
  - 3000+ waiting children in Texas (with 8000 Baptist Churches)
- Bless them
  - Can you foster or adopt?
  - Can you pray?
  - Can you go to Bolivia?
  - Can you babysit foster kids?
  - Can you give? (creative ways to buy, invest in adoptions)

### Questions for Discussion

1. Read Matthew 25.31-46 and Luke 9.46-48. How do you see Jesus identifying Himself with the little ones and helpless ones? Why does He do this? How should this shape our response to these individuals?
2. Read Psalm 127. How does it speak about children? If you had to identify your parents' outlook, where were they in line with Psalm 127 and where were they out of line? How does that shape the way you see your kids or grandkids (or how you want to see your children)?
3. Name two ways that children model for us life in the Kingdom of God. Compare yourself against these two ways? What needs to change in light of this?
4. As a church, we've obviously been impacted deeply by the ministry of orphan care. How has this changed your opinion on this matter? What role have you played in it? How can you play a role?