

# Let the Children Come!

Mark 10:13-16

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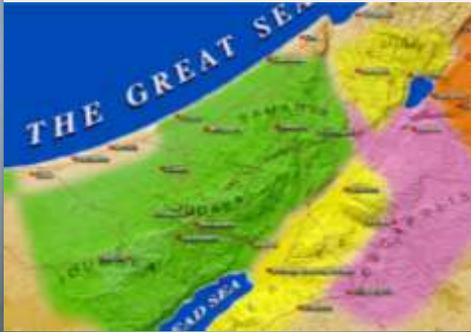
Mark 10:13-16



## Let the Children Come!

- I. The Desire of Parents for their Children (13a)

## The Final Journey to Jerusalem



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- I. The Desire of Parents for their Children (13a)
  - Luke 18:15 - And they were bringing even their babies [or infants] to Him so that He would touch them.
  - What did these parents want the Lord to do?
  - Mark 10:13 - "so that He might touch them."
  - Matt. 19:13 - Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray.

## The Blessing

- Noah blessed Shem and Japheth (Gen. 9:26-27).
- Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau (Gen. 28:1-4)
- Jacob laid his hands on and blessed his sons and grandsons (Gen. 48-49)

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- I. The Desire of Parents for their Children (13a)
- II. The Attitude of the Culture toward Children (13b)

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## Flawed Perspectives: Secular

- o 1) The child growing the womb is not a person but a lifeless piece of tissue that is part of the woman's body.
- o 2) A human child has no more intrinsic value than any other animal.
- o 3) Children must not be allowed to stand in the way of one's career and personal advancement.
- o 4) The school day and school year should be lengthened to give parents more time to pursue their own lives.

## Flawed Perspectives: in the Christian Community

- o 1) Children belong to us as their parents.
- o 2) A parent's most important jobs are to provide food, shelter, and clothing and an academic education.
- o 3) Children can often be an impediment to a person's personal goals and self-fulfillment.
- o 4) Caring for one's children is a much less important task than a woman's career.
- o 5) Discipling one's children is not as important as an important spiritual ministry outside the home.

## Let the Children Come!

- o I. The Desire of Parents for their Children (13a)
- o II. The Attitude of the Culture toward Children (13b)
- o III. The Teaching of Jesus concerning Children (14-16)
  - o A. His Sudden Anger against Those who Mistreat (14a)
  - o B. His Clear Command for His Disciples (14b)
  - o C. His Spiritual Lesson from Children (14c-15)

## What this passage does Not Teach...

- o 1) That children are morally innocent.
  - o 1 Kings 8:46 - "there is no man who does not sin."
  - o Ps. 51:5 - I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
  - o Ps. 58:3 - The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.
  - o Pr. 20:9 - Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin"?
  - o Rom. 3:10ff

## What this passage does Not teach...

- o 1) That children are morally innocent.
- o 2) That infants and very young children are part of the covenant and should be baptized.
- o 3) That infants and very young children can exercise saving faith.

## What this passage Allows...

- o 1) That children who can understand their sin and understand the gospel of Jesus can be saved.
- o 2) That young children who have not yet reached a condition of accountability or those in a similar childlike mental state are received by God into His mercy and grace.

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### Historical Evidence

- Calvin in the *Institutes*: "I everywhere teach that no one can be justly condemned and perish except on account of actual sin; and to say that the countless mortals taken from life while yet infants are precipitated from their mothers' arms into eternal death is a blasphemy to be universally detested." (*Institutes*, Book 4, p.335).
- Westminster Confession: "Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where, and how he pleaseth. So also are all other elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the word." (10:3)

### Biblical Evidence?

- Those verses that speak of sinners being sent to hell only for actual sins.
- Deut. 1:39 - "Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it.
- 1 Kings 14:10-13 - therefore behold, I am bringing calamity on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male person, both bond and free in Israel, and I will make a clean sweep of the house of Jeroboam, as one sweeps away dung until it is all gone.<sup>11</sup> "Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs will eat. And he who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat; for the LORD has spoken it."<sup>12</sup> "Now you, arise, go to your house. When your feet enter the city the child will die. "All Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he alone of Jeroboam's family will come to the grave, because in him something good was found toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

### Biblical Evidence?

- Ezek. 16:21 - "You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire.
- Jonah 4:11 - "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

### What this passage Means...

- What is the point of similarity between a physical infant, and a true follower of Jesus Christ?
  - Not: truthfulness, trusting, openness, sincerity, innocence, simplicity, or a sense of wonder.
- All children—regardless of their circumstances—share one thing in common:
  - They are completely helpless.
  - Cf. Matt. 5:3; Matt. 18:3-4; John 3:3\*

### Let the Children Come!

- III. The Teaching of Jesus concerning Children (14-16)
  - A. His Sudden Anger against Those who Mistreat (14a)
  - B. His Clear Command for His Disciples (14b)
  - C. His Spiritual Lesson from Children (14c-15)
  - D. His Personal Example toward Children (16)
    - 1) He takes them in His arms.
    - 2) He laid His hands on them.
    - 3) He prayed for them.
    - Cf. Matt. 19:13 - Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them.
    - 4) He blessed them.

### Lessons...

- 1) Jesus loves children.
- 2) Infants and children who die before they are able to understand their sin or the gospel will be in heaven as a special demonstration of the grace of God.
- 3) We should make exposing our children to Jesus through our teaching a huge priority—both in our homes and in the church.
- 4) Just as these parents did, we should in faith ask our Lord to bring spiritual blessing upon our children.
- 5) If we want to enter the kingdom of Christ, we must enter it like a child.