

Childlike Faith: Stop Trying So Hard
Let's Go
Mark 10:13-16
9-5-21

Jesus is about to blow up the traditional Jewish works-based salvation by introducing people to a radically new approach... Childlike Faith.

I. The Rejection of Old Beliefs

Mark 10:13 - "And they were bringing children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them."

II. The Correction of Old Beliefs

Mark 10:14 - "But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'"

Five times Jesus showed righteous anger and why.

1. The Human Condition (John 11:33)
2. Rules > People (Luke 13:17)
3. Self-Righteous Judgementalism (Matthew 23)
4. Making Common the Divine (John 2; Matthew 21)
5. When Kids Get Pushed Aside (Mark 10:14)

III. The Explanation of the New Way

Mark 10:15 - "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

What it looks like to be childlike...

1. Humble dependence on God
2. Receptivity
3. Acceptance of themselves and their position in life
4. Enjoy much, explain little
5. Trust others to care for them
6. They take their problems to mom and dad

IV. The Illustration of the New Way

Mark 10:16 - "And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them."

As Christian parents, we are called to prioritize our children!

Growing Deeper This Week

1. In what way do children have intrinsic value, not just potential value?
2. What is the greatest danger to children in the U.S.? in Sub-Saharan Africa? in China? in Thailand? What can you do about these issues?
3. At what age can a person typically leave the nurturing environment and fend for himself or herself in the world? How might this expand the discussion of the "age of viability"?
4. What reasons might some people have today for restricting the access of children to Jesus? Who among non-Christians and Christians might suggest that children shouldn't be brought to church? Why?
5. What opportunities do you have to bring your children to Jesus? to bring other children? How can you participate and assist in these ministries?
6. What do children do that demonstrates they are sinners? How do they show they are helpless and hopeful? Trusting and dependent?
7. Did you receive a blessing from your parents? Have you given your blessing to your children? Why is this formal tradition meaningful and powerful?
8. What have you heard expressed about the fate of children who die? Were these statements based on wishful thinking or anchored in biblical truth?
9. Pray for children you know to know Christ and grow in Christ.