



Lessons for Disciples - The Kingdom, Disciples, and Little Children

Key idea:

Unlike the kingdoms of this world, the Kingdom of God does not give preference to the powerful or wealthy but is open to everyone who will receive it like a little child by recognizing their helplessness and great need that only Jesus can meet.

Key text:

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Key points:

1. Jesus was indignant when the disciples rebuked people who were bringing little children to Jesus to be blessed.
2. In this episode, the disciples needed to learn two things related to the kingdom of God and little children:
 - a. The kingdom is for everyone - including little children!
 - b. Only those who become like little children can enter the kingdom
3. Jesus visibly displayed and enacted the values of the Kingdom by receiving and blessing the little children.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How does our culture often sentimentally speak of children? Does it actually treat them this way?

3. Why does Mark use the very strong words “rebuke” and “Indignant” in this passage? What do they tell me about disciples’ continued lack of understanding of the nature of the kingdom?
4. Why has Jesus stressed little children so much in this section of Mark (see Mark 9:36-37; Mark 9:42; Mark 10:13-16)? How is this related to His teaching the disciples about the Kingdom of God?
5. Other than little children, what groups of people would fit into the category of those overlooked, despised, or rejected by our culture? Does the American church tend to overlook or rebuke them as well? Does BRCC?
6. How does this incident with the little children relate to the immediately preceding teaching on marriage and divorce (Mark 10:1-12)?
7. What does it mean to receive the kingdom like a little child? In what ways are we being called to be child-like?
8. How does this incident with the little children relate to the immediately following story of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-31)?
9. What can I learn from Jesus taking the children into His arms and blessing them? How should this pattern be followed in families? In local churches? In my life?
10. Is anything preventing me from blessing and caring for others, especially those often overlooked by others? Is my attitude more like the world or Jesus? Do I have enough time to do this or have I been coerced by culture into overfilling my schedule so that I miss “divine interruptions”?
11. Who can I reach out to this week to serve and bless?