

Jesus Loves the Little Children

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 19 (Mark 10, Luke 18)

B. The great hope of the Christian is to be able to bring his or her children to Jesus.

II. Parents were bringing their children to Jesus, but the disciples thought this was a disturbance.

A. It was custom for parents to bring their children to great teachers to bless them.

B. The children that were brought were babies. (Luke 15:18, I Peter 2:2)

C. Jesus was not shallowly sentimental about children--He knew they were of the flesh. (John 3:6, Isaiah 51:5, Matthew 11)

D. Jesus was very angry with the disciples for preventing the parents. (Mark 10:14)

1. He loved babies.

2. He loved adults.

3. No one was outside the care of God.

4. Children provided a tremendous analogy for salvation.

5. Jesus needed to set the disciples straight about who could or could not come to Christ.

III. Jesus tells the disciples to permit the children to come because babies "such as these" belong to the kingdom of heaven, the sphere of God's rule through Christ's grace. (I Corinthians 13:12)

A. Babies are under special protection, and if they die, they will go to God's presence. (II Samuel 12:23)

B. The kingdom of heaven is populated by people like babies--those who are dependent and humble. (Mark 10:16, Luke 18:17)

C. If one does work with little children, it will be returned to him. (Proverbs 22:6)

IV. Words on bringing children to Jesus.

A. Remember God made children gave them, they are to be a blessing to you, and God wants them returned to Him for His use. (Psalm 139:18; 127:3, 4; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4)

B. Children need to be taught from life situations and from reminders around the house. They should be warned about the world. (II Timothy 3:15, Deuteronomy 6:7)

C. Parents must model. You cannot speak of sin in your own children's life when it is in your own. (I Samuel 2:16)

D. Children must be loved.

E. Trust God, which translates into prayer.

Application questions:

1. Why did Jesus show special love for children?

2. What does it look like to love one's children? Explain.

3. Which of the "words" did you find most helpful? Explain.
