

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—October 29th, 2023

Mark 10:13-16

(ESV)

[13] And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. [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. [15] Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” [16] And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

INTRODUCTION

What we see in our text today is Jesus’ response to those who attempt to keep others from coming to the gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:3–4—*[3] And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. [4] In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Mark 8:33—*[33] “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”*

Mark 1:1—*[1] The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

Mark 1:15—*[15] “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

If we love Jesus, we will constantly be ridding our lives of anything that can cause the gospel not to be clear to others.

THE DISCIPLE’S INTERFERENCE WITH JESUS’ MINISTRY

Mark emphasizes children often in his gospel.

- Ch 5—Jairus and his daughter
- Ch 7—The Syrophenician woman and her demon possessed son
- Ch 9—A demon possessed boy
- Ch 9—A child as the quintessential example of greatness

Christians find purpose in raising children as we lead them to a saving knowledge of Christ.

The disciples were self-appointed keepers of the gospel, keepers of the light, but in doing so, they veiled the light of Christ.

We have to be careful that our requirements for someone to come to Christ do not supersede Jesus' own requirement for someone to come to him.

Ecclesiastes 7:16—[16] *Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself?*

JESUS' INDIGNATION TOWARDS THE DISCIPLES

But Jesus is the righteous judge of all the earth.

John 5:22—[22] *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son...*

Acts 10:42—[42] *And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.*

Jesus' anger does not flow out of a lapse in his character, but out of his righteous sense of justice.

Psalms 7:11—[11] *God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.*

Jesus sees value in these children, not because he can gain anything from them, but because he is able to give them something—he is able to bless them.

Acts 20:36—*"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

We have great responsibilities towards the children of this church.

1. We have the responsibility to uphold the gospel to them.
2. We have the responsibility to teach them the truths about regeneration.
3. We have the responsibility to welcome them among us.

JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS FOLLOWERS.

The virtues of the kingdom of this world are not the virtues of the Kingdom of God.

What virtue should we emulate from little children in order to receive the Kingdom of God?

"The virtue of not having virtues."

Philippians 3:8–9—[8] *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith...*