

Sermon Text: Luke 18:15-17 A King for Children and Their Like

Because Jesus receives little children and their like, we must receive Him as powerless children.

1) Jesus calls our children to Him (18:15-16).

- a) Powerless Infants:
 - i) “they were bringing”—dependent upon parents
 - ii) “even infants”—emphasized due to their insignificance
 - iii) “the disciples . . . rebuked them”—deemed a waste of Jesus’ time
- b) Powerful Touch:
 - i) “that He might touch them” (cf. 5:13; 7:14; 8:44-47; 22:15)—for healing and restoring
 - ii) Matthew 19:13-15 prayer; Mark 10:13-16 blessing
- c) Gracious Advocacy:
 - i) “But Jesus called them to Him”—a summons
 - ii) “Let the children come to Me”—positive encouragement
 - iii) “do not hinder them”—warning
 - iv) “for to such belongs the kingdom of God”—Jesus welcomes children to participate in the reign of God
 - v) Jesus receives them according to His grace, not according to their “innocence.”
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Do not hinder the children:
 - (1) by underestimating their capacity to know God
 - (2) by taking their devotion lightly
 - (3) by keeping them from Christ’s ordinances (Church, Bible, prayer, baptism)
 - (4) by giving them to the world
 - (5) by being an ungodly example
 - ii) Bring them to Jesus:
 - (1) Baptize them and always remind them of their baptism and what it means.
 - (2) A covenant child belongs in the covenant community, the Church.
 - (3) Teach them the Word of God. Use the Shorter Catechism as a tool.
 - (4) Pray for them. Pray with them.
 - (5) Teach them to sing the songs of Zion.
 - (6) Correct them with consistency and grace out of love for their souls.
 - (7) Augustine’s mother, Monica: “she was also suffering . . . the labor pains of my eternal salvation.”
 - iii) Continue to be a church that welcomes children.

2) Jesus calls us to Him as powerless children (18:17, 31-34).

- a) “to such” (18:16); “like a child” (18:17)—the children and their like
- b) Ancient perspectives on children differed from modern, Western perspectives on children. They were valued largely as potential adults, not as children per se.
- c) Children brought nothing except their need to Jesus. This is how you must enter the kingdom as well.
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Being “rich towards God” (Luke 12:21), always involves poverty of spirit (Luke 6:20; Matthew 5:3).
 - ii) Come to Jesus, not with self-importance, not for self-importance, but to enjoy His all-sufficient glory.

Doxology: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Psalm 103:1-5