

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
BRING YOUR CHILDREN TO JESUS

Mark 10:13-16

The incident of the disciples rebuking the parents of small children and Jesus then rebuking His disciples is recorded in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke), the longest account being in Mark.

The rebuke our Lord directed to His disciples teaches a **three-fold lesson**:

1. RE Disciples of Jesus and His call to humble service

Why did the disciples rebuke the parents? Probably two things:

Their own sense of self-importance & enjoyment of power, &

Their sense that small children are not important. *Contra* Jesus -

This angered Jesus. His rebuke, & His holding & blessing the children shows us by example the service the disciples & we are called to.

Don't be so important in your own eyes that you don't have time to serve and bless little children.

Don't be so impressed with your interest in serious adult matters that you cannot stoop to receive & bless little children.

The **church** should take seriously its ministry to parents & children.

2. RE children and the Kingdom of God

Jesus did not say, "Children are all automatically in the kingdom."

Nor even, "*These* children are in the kingdom of God."

What He did & does say:

"The kingdom of God belongs to "such as" these little children - both little children & older people who are like them."

Note: These were Jewish parents bringing their "**covenant children**" to Jesus, for Him to bless them. The parents believed.

AND Luke's word means "**babies**, nursing babes in arms."

God brings into His kingdom the most **helpless** of people - babies.

By His ordinance we recognize the place of infants in the covenant community of the visible church by baptism.

AND Jesus says: If *YOU* don't see how **helpless you** are before God, if you're convinced you can be deserving of His kingdom, you will never enter it.

Get low. Confess your helplessness in sin. Ask for God's free gift.

3. RE Jesus - THE Servant who came to bless children

Baptism points us to Jesus, the Savior both we & our children need.

These parents were doing the right thing: Bringing their children to Jesus for the blessing only He could give.

We bring our children to Jesus in baptism and pray for His blessing.

Continue to bring them to Jesus every day through prayer & the Word in your home and in faithful participation with His church in worship, instruction, fellowship, and service - with Jesus at the center.

And note the words: "*Do not hinder them.*"

It is a great sin to put obstacles between children and Jesus.

Jesus took them in His arms & blessed them.

AND *He went to the cross* for their sins & their salvation.