

Mark 10:13-16

Introduction

1. Do you see these 3 kids on the screen? If you had to guess, what causing reactions?
 - a. How about this? Boy w/hands over eyes said something silly. And said it in S. S.
 - i. The boy w/hand over mouth laughed but was shocked he said it in church.
 - ii. The girl w/hands over ears thought it was funny but was afraid he'd say it again.
 - iii. So she's covering her ears hoping, **Don't say it again.**
 - iv. And the original boy is so embarrassed he's trying to hide by covering his eyes.
2. Is it really what happened? No. But I know kids pretty good & that's as good a bet as . . .
 - a. Did you know that somebody else knew kids very well? Jesus.
 - b. In fact, Jesus Christ placed a high priority on the relationship of children to Himself.
 - i. 1 of Jesus greatest invitations to children. 1 of harshest rebukes to those hindered.
 - ii. Read Mark 10:13-14b. Jesus' rebuke was sharp/quick. Original text has no *and*.
 - iii. Words have a staccato effect.¹ Jesus was hot. Greatly displeased w/the disciples.
 - iv. Jesus knew something about kids that makes all the difference in the world.
3. Today we look at Jesus' teaching about children. (**Give Title & Text.**) (Set context)

I. **Children Have Spiritual Aptitude; (v. 14c).**A. Meaning Of Such.

1. Jesus gave a reason for wanting the children to come to Him (v. 14c).
2. Meaning of the adjective such is crucial to understand what Jesus means.
 - ➔ "such" = *persons with a special characteristic or a definite quality.*²
 - ➔ People who enter God's kingdom must have the quality that kids do.
3. Often think kids must become like adults. Just opposite is true (Show Matt.18:3).³

B. Point Is Clear.

1. Children have the necessary spiritual aptitude to be saved. Not all are, but can.
2. The great pastor & Baptist preacher, C. Spurgeon, learned this 1st hand.⁴

II. **Children Can Possess Salvation (v. 14b).**A. Two Forms of God's Kingdom.

- a. When Jesus speaks of the kingdom of God He has primarily 2 thoughts in mind.
 - ① God's future kingdom = *Jesus' physical rule on the earth.*
 - ② God's present kingdom = *Jesus' spiritual rule in hearts.*
- a. The kingdom of God also has a spiritual form.

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *The Gospel of Mark*, p. 56.

² Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. 2000. *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, Mich.

³ <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/438326976214818889/>. Accessed 5/20/17.

⁴ *I will say broadly that I have more confidence in the spiritual life of the children that I have received into this church than I have in the spiritual condition of the adults thus received. I will go even further than that, and say that I have usually found a clearer knowledge of the gospel and a warmer love to Christ in the child-converts than in the [adult]-converts. I will even astonish you still more by saying that I have sometimes met with a deeper spiritual experience in children of ten and twelve than I have in certain persons of fifty and sixty.*

Hughes, op. cit., p. 58, quoted from *Christ and the Children*, a sermon by Spurgeon.

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- b. Refers to the rule of Christ in 1's heart when He is accepted as Savior & Lord now.
- c. Notice how Jesus distinguished these two forms of the kingdom in v. 15.
 - i. 1st Jesus mentions *receiving* the kingdom, and 2nd *entering* the kingdom.
 - ii. That change of words is not by accident. It is very significant.
 - iii. You receive the kingdom spiritually when receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
 - iv. You enter the kingdom physically when Jesus comes again sets it up. And He will.

☞ To enter the kingdom physically you must receive it spiritually (see John 3:3).

- a. Key to entering the kingdom physically someday is to be born again spiritually now.
- b. What does all of this have to do w/children? Notice Jesus' skillful application.

B. Three Conclusions about Children. (These conclusions follow logically from each other.)

① Children can possess God's future physical kingdom. → They can enter it hereafter.

- i. Preposition to is what we need to see. Grammatically its function is possession.⁵
- ii. Jesus affirms that people who have the quality of kids can possess the kingdom.
- iii. NIV brings this out: *for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*
- iv. So, if receiving it spiritually is the key to entering it physically, then →→→→

② Children can also possess God's present spiritual kingdom. → They can receive it now.

③ Children can possess salvation; they can be born again.

- a. I learned this 1st hand w/two sisters in my youth group. Share about Laura/Christie.⁶

III. Children Can Express Saving Faith (v. 15).

A. Meaning Of Verse 15.

☞ A word is missing from v. 15. = an *Ellipses* (Grammatical term = *ellipses*)

- a. So obvious the word is omitted w/o harming meaning.
- b. It is assumed we will add the word instinctively. So let's do it.

☞ Add the word "does" after "*little child*" for the meaning.

- a. The *Amplified Bible* does this for us.
- b. *whoever does not receive . . . the kingdom of God as a little child [does] . . .*

☞ The issue is receptivity. Children are receptive.

- a. Jesus is comparing children with adults. Must receive Him w/a receptive heart.
- b. From day 1 kids are constantly needing adults to do things for them.
- c. *Mommy, Daddy, tie my shoes! Get me a drink! Buy me some candy!*
- d. They are willing to receive what they cannot do for themselves.

B. Exactly Where Many Adults Stumble.

⁵ Rienecker, Fritz. & Rodgers, Cleon. *The Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*, p. 57.

⁶ Both were from totally unchurched home. Younger as a child came to VBS w/her friend. She trusted Christ and continued coming to church w/her friend. Few yrs later older sister got food poisoning & childishly thought she would die. Younger sister witness to her & she became a believer. Both became active in my youth group. Older sister eventually went to Germany as missionary. Both married Christian men and are active Christians in their churches to this day.

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1. **Salvation cannot be earned/deserved. Must be received as gift by helpless sinners.**
 - a. **Adults vs. Kids → independent/dependent; self-sufficient/helpless; proud/humble**
 - b. **Due to a false sense of self-respect many adults won't be humble & come to Jesus.**
2. Kids know their helplessness so often they are eager to receive what Jesus gives.
3. What is saving faith? Knowing our helplessness & depending on Christ alone to save.

Conclusions

⇨ **Prioritize as of 1st importance our kids' Christian education at home and church.**

1. Can't stress this enough. The more our kids see that priority our lives/theirs, love Him.
2. Tell about playing Pop Warner football for 5 yrs. (8-12). Had skip practice every Wed.
 - Only one in entire E. Muskegon Football Club. I knew no use protesting.
 - **You can go every other night, but on Wed. night we will go to Boys Brigade.**
 - I am glad I can throw/catch a football. Doesn't compare to BB & youth group did.
 - Thank God for parents who said football is 2nd, Christian education is 1st.

⇨ **Present the gospel fully to your children.**

1. Ask 10 kids if want go heaven, all 10 will say yes. Tell them to ask Jesus in heart, they'll do.
 - a. Woefully inadequate view. Salvation is more than a free trip to heaven.
 - i. **We must know we have sinned against a holy God and are under judgment.**
 - ii. **We must realize Christ paid the price.**
 - iii. **We must want to be forgiven & have a personal relationship w/God.**
 - iv. **We must Depend on Christ alone.**
 - b. We need conviction of sin, understanding of cross, an inner desire to be right w/God.
2. Rule of Thumb: If a child can't explain these things. Not ready.

⇨ **Not press children to receive Christ or get baptized until they are ready.**

1. Kids often want to please adults. They will go thru the motions for adults.
2. Kids are susceptible to high pressure methods of evangelism. Protect them from these.

⇨ **Help your children who are ready to trust Christ and follow Him.**

1. **No one knows the age of the youngest person in hell. So if a child truly wishes to be saved, [that child] should not be told he/she is too young. . . . children who wish to confess their faith in the Lord Jesus should be encouraged, not held back.⁷ (**Show**)**

⁷ William MacDonald, *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 220.