

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

--MARK 10:13-16—

INTRODUCTION:

Children clearly were not presumed to be blessings in the non-Christian culture of Christ's day. This was not true of Biblical, Hebrew culture which elevated the family and children. The words of the psalmists still rung true in the home of most Israelites, and they wanted the best for their children, both sons and daughters. Our passage in Mark ten this morning shows us a further elevation of children by our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus not only elevates children as people in this passage, but He also elevates their faith, and as a result elevates ours.

- I. THE ELEVATION OF CHILDREN (Mark 10:13-14)
 - a. This event begins by Mark telling us that people from the region were bringing their _____ to Jesus so that He might touch them.
 - b. Just think about how the word got around that Jesus was _____ children.
 - c. The _____ stopped the flow of families seeking Jesus to bless their children.
 - d. Verse 14 indicates for us that Jesus saw what was happening and Mark records that He was _____. (Mark 9:36-37)
 - e. What should we draw from this sharp rebuke from Jesus?
 - f. First, that Jesus _____ children.
 - g. The second thing we learn from Jesus' indignation and His rebuke to His disciples is that Jesus affirms and respects the _____ and spirituality of children.
 - h. Jesus in His rebuke of the disciples elevates the _____ capacity of children for all the Church to see.

- II. THE ELEVATION OF CHILDREN'S FAITH (Mark 10:15-16)
 - a. Listen again to the words of the Lord Jesus, "*Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a _____ will not enter it at all.*" (Mark 10:15, NASB95)

- b. How are we to understand and _____ this?
- c. What Jesus has in mind here is an objective state that every child who has ever lived, regardless of ethnicity, culture, or background, has experienced—that is _____ dependence.
- d. Children of the kingdom enter it _____, ones for whom everything must be done.
- e. Have you come to Jesus Christ like this? Is it His grace _____ your nothingness. (Matthew 18:3-4)
- f. Look at what happens in verse 16 to the waiting children, "*And He took them in His _____ and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.*" (Mark 10:16, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

Do you desire to be held in Christ's arms and feel His warm embrace, and to hear Him pronounce blessings on you? Eternity will reveal that is all we ever wanted, and our Spirit-given response will be "Abba, Father!"

Jesus has elevated children. He believes they can know Him as truly as anyone else, that they can have a vibrant relationship with Him. He should know because many of His children have come to Him at a young age, including me. Jesus has also elevated the faith of children. No one will receive the kingdom of God without this helpless dependence and humility. Jesus said, "*Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*" (Mark 10:14, NASB95)