

Let the Children Come

Matthew 19:13-15

Introduction

One of the first songs that I learned as a child and that I taught to my children was “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

Matthew 19:13-15

¹³ Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Exposition

I. The Disciples’ Priority (V. 13)

Focusing on the “most important” things

On children in ancient society, Michael Green wrote,

Children in ancient society, Greco-Roman and Jewish alike, were there to be seen and not heard. They had no rights, no status. They did not matter very much until they grew up. So when the disciples shooed away people who were bringing little children to Jesus for his blessing, they were acting in a typically Jewish (and for that matter Gentile) manner. But that is not the attitude Jesus wants to see in the kingdom. Children matter, and have much to teach us. They are usually more sensitive to the things of God than adults are. Their attitudes of trust, simplicity, inability to put forward their own achievements, and dependence, all characterize true disciples. Those qualities are priceless in the kingdom of God, and therefore children can provide a signpost towards life in the kingdom style. So Jesus stands their assumption of the irrelevance of children on its head. His response reveals several things.¹

II. The Lord’s Priority (Vv. 14-15)

“Let the children come...”

Caring for the weakest among us

Conclusion

If the Lord of all made time for little children, then as His church, we too, must prioritize loving and discipling the children that God has entrusted to us. (Service in KidMin)

I believe that if Jesus was ministering among us today in the same way that we see in this passage, the tendency of many would be to try and get him on a political talk show or a political platform of some sort. They would want Him to meet celebrities and wealthy leaders in our world. But you know where I think you would find Jesus? You would find him among the weak and the vulnerable. You would find him among little children and people suffering from blindness. You would find him among the needy. Why? Because the “kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these?”

What does this mean for you? You are more needy, weak, and vulnerable than you realize...

¹ Michael Green, *The Message of Matthew: The Kingdom of Heaven*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 205–206.