

CHILDREN AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Mark 10:13-16)

December 1, 2024

TEXT—Mark 10:13-16

MAIN IDEA—Salvation for all in God's Kingdom (including children) is the free gift of God alone. Yet those who enter the Kingdom of God in this life must do it like a child.

MEMORY VERSE—Ps. 3:8

BRINGING CHILDREN TO JESUS (Mark 10:13-14)—Parents were bringing their children to Jesus to be personally blessed by Him. Yet the disciples strongly opposed these actions and rebuked the parents. To their surprise, Jesus rebuked them and directed them to welcome the children because God's kingdom belongs to them and those like them.

These parents wanted Jesus to bless, and pray for the salvation of their children. The salvation of our kids is the desire of any godly parent (3 Jn. 1:4).

Mk. 10:14—Jesus corrected his disciples thinking by commanding them to welcome the parents in bringing their babies to Him.

>We can bring our children to Jesus by faithfully sharing the Gospel with them as a family in the Word [Deut. 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4]. We want to expose our children to the Gospel every way possible (at church, VBS, bible study at home, demonstrating it through sacrificial love etc.).

Mk. 10:14—The Kingdom of God is the sphere of salvation. The subject Jesus has been speaking about is the children (translated 'little babies' by Luke and 'little children' by Mark). Jesus gives an unqualified statement regarding the kingdom, with no conditions or restrictions attached to it. He doesn't apply it only to children of faithful Jews, circumcised (or baptized) children, elect children, or only to those infants present on that particular occasion. Luke specifically uses the phrase for 'such as these' (Gk. *toiouton*) instead of *toutois* ('these') indicates that Jesus was referring to all those who are unable to believe savingly because they have not reached the point of personal accountability (Lk. 18:16).

John MacArthur—It is obvious that Jesus did not pronounce blessings on people outside His Kingdom. All such people belong to Satan's kingdom (Jn. 8:44; Col. 1:13; 1 Jn. 3:8) and are

cursed. Babies, before they reach the age when they understand good and evil (which varies from child to child), are under God's gracious, special care. If they die before that time, their souls will go to heaven; once past that point, God will hold them responsible if they fail to repent and believe the Gospel.

Rom. 5:12-15, 18-21

Deut. 1:39; Jer. 19:4; Ezekiel 16:21

Job 3:11, 13, 16-17; 2 Sam. 12:13-14; 2 Sam. 12:20-23

Charles Hodge, 19th Century Presbyterian Theologian (1797-1878)—He tells us of such is the Kingdom of Heaven, as though Heaven was in great measure composed of the souls of redeemed infants.

Benjamin Warfield (1851-1921) speaking of Babies wrote—Their destiny is determined irrespective of their choice, by an unconditional decree of God, suspended for its execution on no act of their own. There's no greater act of sovereign grace and election than the salvation of a child.

Rev. 13:8

Jn. 6:39; Ps. 3:8

COMING TO JESUS LIKE CHILDREN (Mark 10:15-16)—The kingdom of God is both a gift to be received and a realm to enter. Yet this reception and entrance can only happen if received like a child.

*Children are trusting (Rom. 10:9-10, 13).

*Children are humble (Jn. 14:6, Acts 4:12).

*Children are Dependent (Eph. 2:8-9).