

Jesus and Children

“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant.

“He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’

And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:13-17 (NIV)

This passage has brought great comfort to parents who have lost one of their children through accident or illness. The words of Jesus describing the children as belonging to the kingdom of God is very reassuring and helps calm the broken hearts.

The disciples were under the mistaken impression that only adults were of concern to the Saviour. So they told the parents to take the little ones away. As soon as Jesus witnessed the disciples turning the people away He instantly told them that children mattered greatly to Him and He wanted to see them right away. The original language in which the New Testament was written, Greek, uses a term that applies to children before they were born and just after so

these little ones may well have been infants that were carried to Jesus.

No one who lives and breathes regardless of how young, or with great deficits of one sort or another are overlooked by the Saviour. He wishes to minister blessing to everyone. There is no discrimination at the cross.

It is a wonderful picture to see Jesus sitting down and lifting the infants into His arms and speaking words of grace to each one. As adults we can be reassured of a similar warmth of affection by the Lord Jesus as we draw near to Him in faith. A good study would be to look up the various times and situations where Jesus touched individuals even public sinners and lepers forgiving and healing them.

Are you familiar with this gentle and meek Saviour of sinners? Do you find time to be alone with Him in prayer every day? Will you turn to Him today and ask Him to fill your heart with the peace and love that every believer enjoys? This gentle Jesus calls for everyone to seek Him while He freely offers Himself to them. No one is excluded from His invitation.

Joseph Hart, a hymn writer, penned the following words:

“None are excluded thus but those, who do themselves exclude.”

Do you exclude yourself or will you come as a little child with simple faith and trust? Come to the One who loves infants and come today.

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