

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.’”

Mark 10:13-15 (NIV)

After five weeks indoors because of my illness, I was able to spend yesterday afternoon down on the north shore of Lake Ontario at the southern border of our city of Burlington. Three of us went, my wife Susan, our grandson Colton and myself. We had a great time!

Colton is four years old and as care free as any small child can be. We had him on the swings, slides, and water fountain play areas. Colton trusts us with all his heart. He knows we would keep him safe under all circumstances. So he was free of all cares.

It is this matter of children trusting adults that is the focus of our Lord’s teaching in these verses today. A small child will believe whatever you say to them. If you give a child a piece of cheese to eat and tell

them the moon is made of cheese he will believe you. A child’s willingness to trust is remarkable.

Our Lord goes on to say that children can teach us adults about faith in Him. When we come to Jesus and ask for forgiveness from repentant hearts we ought to fully believe that He has indeed saved us from the judgment of God against sin. Our confidence should be wholehearted just the way children trust adults.

Jesus goes further in His description of genuine faith in Him. He indicates that if our faith in Him is not as pure and free from doubts as that of a child, we will never be happy in this life or the life to come. This is biblical truth for the tough minded among us.

Is your faith in Jesus as

uncluttered as this? Read the words of the author of the epistle to Hebrews: Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

May you learn from children today what it is to trust and to trust the Lord. Then you will be free from all worry and distress because you are trusting the ever faithful One.

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