

# Friends And Children Of Jesus

*“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 10:13-16 (NIV)*

*“Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.”  
*John 21:5 (KJV)**

Children love to be loved. Most children respond well to hugs and kisses from their family members. We adults gain great pleasure from lavishing love on our children and their children. Parents and grandparents have oceans of love to bestow on the generations that follow them.

Jesus was no exception to the general rule that adults take great pleasure in the presence of children. So the disciples were somewhat out of step when they thought Jesus too important a person to spend time with little children. When the parents brought the children to Jesus to have Him lay hands on them the misguided disciples rebuked the parents.

Then, when Jesus saw the actions of His disciples, He rebuked them for not understanding that the kingdom of God belonged to little children. Then Jesus promptly took up the little children and blessed them. So we ought to remem-

ber that our faith in Jesus should be as pure as the faith of a small child.

The second Scripture for today shows how tenderly Jesus can relate to His discouraged, weary followers. The disciples had just gone through the horrors of their Master’s crucifixion and then the surprising and unexpected resurrection. But in the resurrection Jesus was not giving Himself to them 24/7 as He did before the cross. They were puzzled and uncertain about their future. So they went back to what was familiar, being fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had told them to go ahead of Him to Galilee and He would meet them there. But so far Jesus had not come.

Then, one morning as they were coming back from an unsuccessful night fishing, there was a man on shore asking them if they had caught any fish. The term of address used by Jesus on this occasion is most tender and affection-

ate. He called them “children”. Indeed they were like lost children bewildered and confused at life. They had no idea where to go in their mission so they fell back on the familiar trade of fishing.

Perhaps you are like the disciples that early morning. Your life has not turned out as you thought it would. You had great expectations that the Lord was leading you to some wonderful adventure but all your dreams have been shattered. Well, look away from the rubble of your life and look for the word from your Saviour in Holy Scripture. Pray persistently, pray insistent-ly, pray until you hear the Lord speaking to you from the pages of Scripture, from providence, from a sermon in church, from the wise counsel of godly friends —and then be encouraged. Jesus delights to call you “friend” “child of mine” and hold you close to His loving heart.