

Date: May 10, 2026

Title: They Were Bringing Children to Him

Passage: Mark 10:13-16

Key Truths:

- Our prayers will echo past our life here on earth. God's timetable to answer prayer may be after we have gone.
- Our greatest privilege as a parent or as a believer is to love our child or people's children enough to bring them to Jesus.
- What did people come to see? Jesus' compassion, power, and teaching and preaching.
- We come into God's kingdom "like a child," which means the objective state of dependency and helplessness. There is nothing you can do to deserve or earn God's salvation.
- Without an objective awareness of one's complete dependence on God, one cannot be saved.

Application:

Pray for loved one(s) with 3 P's:

- Place in the kingdom (pray for their salvation)
- Picture of the kingdom (once saved, pray that they would look like Jesus)
- Promote the kingdom (pray that they want to serve God with their lives.)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

"Tell them about Jesus"

- Life motto of Pastor Chuck's mother
 - not only for her own children but also focus on missions.

Life of prayer

- Important for every person.

"The shower of answers to your prayers will continue to your dying hour. Nor will it cease then. When you pass out from beneath the shower, your dear ones will step into it. Every prayer and every sigh which you have uttered for them and their future welfare will, in God's time, descend upon them as a gentle rain of answers to prayer." (O. Hallesby)

- Our prayers will echo past our life here on earth.
 - People have prayed for their children for them to come to faith in Jesus, which the answer has come about not until months or years after their passing.
 - God is always faithful and sovereign.

Hebrews 11:39

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

- In Hebrews chapter of faith, many did not always receive the results of their faith during their lifetime. But God provided according to His timeline.

Context of Passage:

Jesus was surrounded by crowds to hear Him as well as to be ministered by Him.

- This passage shows how God used children in relation to His kingdom.
 - also reflects the value of faith to come to a relationship with God.

Passage:

Mark 10:13-16

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

EXPOSITION

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them,

- the greatest privilege as a parent:
 - love our child/children enough to bring their children to Jesus.

And they were bringing

- Various adults were bring young children to Jesus
 - parents, grandparents as well as other adults. (Community of faith)

children

- children of all ages were brought to Jesus.
 - Little babies, and
 - Adult children

to him

- people were gathering around Jesus.
 - Why? They had heard of Jesus.

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

that he might touch them,

- Why did they come to Jesus? They wanted to see Jesus':
 - Compassion
 - people saw something unique in Jesus that they didn't see in the religious leaders of that day
 - Power
 - Many miracles of healing
 - Teaching and preaching
 - Words brought salvation

but the disciples rebuked them.

- "rebuked" = reprimand / censor / scold
 - The disciples perceived that Jesus was about a political kingdom and not to be bothered by small people.
 - Reflected the same prideful attitude of the Pharisees.
 - They perceived they were on the side of God and need not accommodate the weak.

But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant

- "indignant" = righteous anger
 - Note: only time that this word is used in the New Testament.
- Jesus was angry with His disciples.
 - The disciples were doing the same thing that He consistently opposed with the Pharisees.

- The disciples were distorting the heart of God.
- Jesus was deeply moved by the situation.
 - In Luke's account, Jesus had called out for the children who were being brought.

and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

- "do not hinder them"
 - Meaning = don't prevent them from coming to Me (Jesus)
- Why? *"for to such belongs the kingdom of God."*

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

"like a child"

- Meaning = Objective state of dependency and helplessness.
 - Not innocence (no child is free of sin)
- Without an objective awareness of one's complete dependence on God, one cannot be saved.
 - We cannot do anything to be saved
- Likewise: There is nothing you can do to deserve or earn God's salvation.
 - Jesus' words on the cross: "It is finished"
 - Jesus paid the cost of our sin on the cross.
 - The cost of our sin has been paid AND we are given Jesus' righteousness (so we can be right with God).

How are we saved?

- God's sovereign grace
 - Not because we deserve it (we could never do or be good enough to be in heaven)
- Like a child, lacking any achievement of our own, we come to Jesus our King, completely dependent upon Him.

And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

"And he took them in his arms "

- embraced / enfolded within his arms
 - not distant but near.

and blessed them,

- Jesus not only brought them near but blessed them.

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

- The heart of God is seen in the words and behavior of Jesus.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Salvation through Jesus is only through faith in Him alone.

Three Key Words on how to pray for your loved one(s)::

Place in the kingdom

- pray for their salvation
 - there's no greater gift than salvation through Jesus Christ.

Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

- pray that they would come to Jesus.

Picture of the kingdom

- Once saved, pray that they would look like Jesus.

Romans 8:29

- God's purpose for your child beyond salvation is to be like Jesus.

- May the fruit of the Spirit mark their lives

Promote the kingdom

- pray that they want to serve God with their lives.
 - Not necessarily as a pastor but that their life would be spent with a heart for Jesus and for the love of others.

Note: don't pray alone but with others.

- God loves them more than you do. Pray for them before God.

Potential Resources:

- 31 Biblical virtues to pray for your kids
 - Bookmark to pray through different values through the month.
- "The Power of a Praying Parent"
- "Leading Little Ones to God" (Marian Schoolland)