

Mark 10.13-16: Little Children
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Greatness and Closeness of God: "Our Father, who is in Heaven, Holy is your Name".

Mark 10.13-16:

Jesus breaks every mould. He is getting popular, performing miracles, getting quite a following, and his disciples try to prevent some from coming to Jesus. They think these inferior ones will bother him. **But Jesus was indignant, and answers in a way that tells us two things:**

1. **Who can come?** Vs 13: "let the children come for to such belongs the kingdom of God"

'to such': Children would be considered naïve, young, immature, non intellectual, simple, etc.

Well lets look and see who did come to Jesus in scripture? All types! **Fishermen, Pharisee like Nicodemus at night. Woman married 5 times and living with someone else, a government official, an invalid, a woman caught in adultery, a roman soldier, tax collectors, lepers, teachers of the law, scribes, sinners, sinful woman, rich young rulers, mothers, children, fathers, despised Canaanite woman.**

This is one of the most remarkable things about Jesus, the incredible cross section of people he reached. There was no demographic mission here.

Who can come? Homosexuals, sinners, the wicked, the weak, the privately perverted, the liar and the thief, the wrong and the twisted. **RHC will always have these people, because we are to represent Jesus, and he came for the sick. "Such were some of you" - Paul.**

Anyone can come, but you come on His terms, not your own. You come humbly, bowing.

Likewise those who actually struggled with Jesus were the religious, prideful types, those who came with an agenda, (to use Him) or pride. We come to him as King and Saviour!

Jesus was indignant because His heart is big enough for all people and his sacrifice is sufficient for all sin. We are all leveled at the foot of the cross. **Sometimes the characteristics of weakness are what enables us to receive the Kingdom!**

Jesus goes on to emphasize that there is something special about children that makes them able to receive the kingdom. **There is this childlike quality that we need to embrace.**

2. **What do we learn from children?** Vs 15 "whoever does not receive the Kingdom like a child shall not enter it".

Jesus says that one of these keys for us to enter the Kingdom (fullness of his plans) is to become like a little child. **Luke 10.17-23:** Not the wise, but the children. We don't throw away our minds, but it's not the primary way of knowing God or experiencing his Kingdom life.

God reveals Himself to us as a Father. Scripture uses this analogy far more than a King with subjects. (Romans 8.14-17, Galatians 4.4-7). 300 times. We've been adopted as sons.

A) Adore their father, and think he's a hero

Running to greet my Dad. Tyra saying "My daddy is brave and he is strong!"

A sense of wonder: There is so much laughter and joy. We need to recapture the wonder. Are we reveling in the privilege of being sons and daughters of the most high God?

The Father's Heart towards us, how we should come to him with our faults, hope, love etc.

Romans 8.31-40: says 'what can separate us from the God's love?'

Luke 11.13: If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts.. how much more Father...

The scandal of having our sins forgiven and God's favour resting on us as sons. It's so good we can be accused of licentiousness! (Romans 6.1)

B) Trust / Faith, not suspicious

"Children are entirely dependant upon their parents in the very nature of things".

Blue Kreuger

God is looking for childlike faith and trust, the issue of faith appears many many times in the gospel, when the son of man appears will he find faith on the earth? Centurion, women etc.

Doubt in God's nature is sin, it's what happened in the garden. Did God really say?!

Often we live like beggars on buried treasure. We must read the scriptures with a sense of faith (some examples!) Believe He's disarmed principalities and powers.

Carefree life and fun. Life is fun and full of joy and there is hardly a care in this world, everything is a pleasure. Jesus said we aren't to worry, we must trust God, place our lives in His, lose some of the skepticism. Like us spurning the offer of \$1 Million.

Do not doubt God's goodness to you!

Conclusion (How can we be His kids, and be confident in it?) John 1.12

His love is so sincere that He sent his son. This is how we know he loves us.

Ultimately Jesus enables us by being the only one not received by the Father, the only one that the Father turned his face from, he was not heard so that we can be heard, He was cast out so that we do not have to be cast out. We can enter with boldness by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus was the true Son, so we could be brought back, he trusted 'not my will but your will be done'.