



***‘Now!’ Sermon Series***

Sermon #38

***‘The Importance of Children in the Kingdom of God!’***

***Mark 10:13-16***

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

***This Past Sunday in NOW Sermon Series:***

- This past Sunday, as many of you know, I preached what I feel like was the hardest sermon I have every preached.
  - On Sunday night I was able to go to bed peacefully. I was at peace that though my delivery and study habits have much to be desired, that I was faithful to the text.
- You can still view Sunday’s sermon on YouTube or facebook.
- ***On Sunday I preached a sermon entitled ‘A Discussion on Marriage and Divorce!’***

- I asked the question: *What does Jesus Himself say about marriage and divorce in this text?*
  - ***Truth #1: The Sinister Approach. (vv. 1-2)***
  - ***Truth #2: The Scriptural Analysis. (vv. 3-9)***
  - ***Truth #3: The Sin of Adultery. (vv. 10-12)***
- Based on Sunday’s message, how have you aligned any prior thoughts about marriage and divorce, and conformed that to what God’s Word says about it from the text we studied on Sunday?

***‘The Importance of Children in the Kingdom of God!’***

***Mark 10:13-16***

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

***Children are Important to Jesus because they are not an annoyance, they have total access, and they have a humble approach.***

**Intro:**

- I am personally thankful that this is the next text in our study of Mark.
  - With last Sunday and the previous few messages in Mark, we have certainly dealt with some difficult, yet life changing texts in God’s Word.

- *This evening, we get to look and see how Jesus treated children and how we too, can learn in the Church how we must disciple them.*

- *I find it no coincide that just after Jesus discussed the importance of marriage and discipleship between a husband and wife, that Jesus transitioned **BACK** to children.*

- Remember in Mark 9:42, we discussed ‘little ones’ first in reference to immature believers, and then in Mark 9:36 Jesus took a literally Child and held the child.

- *It's very important for you and I to understand tonight that children and women in ancient jewish society were viewed the same. They were viewed as ‘less than’.*

- Their position in society was derived from whatever their relationship was to males, in other words, they had no rights.

- *While our society and culture is FAR from perfect, I do tend to believe that we do treat children better than the ancient society, or do we?*

- As far as the culture, I would argue children are treated just as badly as in the ancient Jewish culture, just in different ways...
  - *America has quickly become one of the most violent countries in the world against children.*

- *More than 1.5 Million babies (pre-born) die each year.*

- *22% of children in America live in poverty...*

- *One out of every four girls under the age of 18 have been sexually abused.*

- One recent study of 36 prominent hospitals showed that in 10% of pregnancies in the United States that illegal drugs were used during pregnancy.

- *89% of school teachers surveyed report that abuse and neglect of children are a problem in their education.*

- From a cultural perspective, the conditions for our children really hasn't improved. And this is where the Church is to step in and follow what Jesus teaches here.

- *As far as strengths of FBCG, I totally believe that our Children's ministries are a strength. (Now can they always improve, yes).*

- As a Church, we do our best to cultivate an environment where children are LOVED, TAUGHT, CARED FOR, DISCIPLINED, and DISCIPLED.

- *We do these through SS, Children's Worship, Children's D-Groups, Children's events and activities.*

- And we try to come alongside our parents through Family Matters workshops and other discipleship opportunities.
  - We also have children assimilate into the worship service once they complete fourth grade.
    - *If they can understand everything on the iPad and on the T.V., they can and should be present for the corporate gathering and teaching of God's Word.*
- Approximately \$90,000 of our Church budget (16%), goes towards those who are 22 and younger in our Church.
  - *This is great, we're in a good spot, but Jesus still gives us a great reminder that we as the Church are to care and love for children.*
  - All throughout the world children are despised, rejected and abused, but God's house is to be a place where they are loved and welcomed, and they start with each one of us. Not just the Church, but also your individual family.
    - \*Read Mark 10:13-16\**

**Question to Ask:**

*How does Jesus show us the importance that children have in the Kingdom of God?*

**Truth #1: *Children are NOT an annoyance. (v. 13)***

- 'And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.'
  - *The word 'children' in verse 13 in the greek could refer to any age between infancy and 12 years old.*
    - In Mark 5:39 and Mark 5:42 the same word is used in reference to a 12 year old girl.
  - *But, because of verse 16, the fact Jesus was able to hold the children in His arms, I believe they were smaller children at this time.*
    - The beauty of Mark 10:13 is that we see while the world may view children as a burden or a bother, Jesus very clearly views them as a blessing, and will explain this later on.
  - I believe there are **2** important things to point out here regarding how the disciples viewed Children as an annoyance.
- ***Family Members can Trust their Kids to Jesus. (v. 13a)***
  - 'And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them,'
  - *The first question we may ask ourselves when looking at verse 13, is 'who are they?'*
    - I personally believe that they could refer to both the Mom and Dad, or one parent, or even extended family and friends.

- *The important thing here is that those who took care of and were responsible for the children, trust Jesus with their kids.*
  - This is a great reminder for us that we want to create an environment here in every way where parents feel comfortable coming here and bringing their children.
- *For this time period it was a local custom that Jewish parents would bring their kids to the local synagogues and to prominent or well known Rabbi's, so that their children may be blessing pronounced onto them.*
  - Remember that the OT records paternal blessings onto their children with Noah (Genesis 9:26-27), Isaac (Genesis 27:1-41) as well as Jacob (Genesis 49:28).
- *It had also become no surprise, but during Jesus' ministry he often loved and welcomed children.*
- The parents here that brought their kids to Jesus did a powerful thing.
  - Exposing their children and loved ones to the love and care of Jesus gives them the opportunity to one day respond to the Gospel invitation.
  - *In other words, Jesus touching/blessing of the children here does not indicate*

*that they are not sinners and will one day need a savior.*

- *It shows us that in a society at the time, viewed children as outcast, Jesus treasures and values them greatly.*
- If you are a parent in here tonight, the greatest gift you can give your child is exposing them to the truth of Jesus and who He is.
  - No, you can't save them, but you can introduce them to the only one who can, Jesus Christ.
- *We Should Help Children get to Jesus, not HINDER them. (v. 13b)*
  - 'and the disciples rebuked them.'
  - The response of the Disciples here takes us directly back to Mark 9:38, where they stopped someone casting out a demons.
    - *The disciples have become susceptible to having their attitudes formed by society, and not the Savior. We too, can fall into this same danger.*
      - So, the disciples have the audacity to rebuke the parents that were bringing their kids to Jesus.
  - *\*Word Study\**
    - The word 'rebuked' comes from the greek word '*Ἐπιτιμαὸ*' *ἐπιτίμων* which

- literally means to censure, charge, rebuke and admonish.
  - The disciples wanted to silence these parents because they didn't feel children were worthy to come to Jesus.
- John McArthur said *'They saw the children as little more than unnecessary interruptions to the Lord's ministry.'*
  - May we never get to the point as an individual follower of Christ or as a Church that HINDERS or HURTS children's spiritual walk with the Lord, but one that HELPS them.
- *Today the demanding, short-tempered, sulky, stubborn, thankless and selfish attitudes of children can drive us nuts.*
  - I know that at times, on occasion, crying or loud babies/children and get on people's nerves.
  - ***Here's the thing, whether children/babies are in the sanctuary or they are in the nursery/children's Worship, they are welcome here and we must be thankful that their parents have brought them here.***
- *When we don't prioritize children in our own lives or in the Church, we are guilty of what was said to Peter in Mark 8:33.*

- "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Mark 8:33
- In verse 13, we see that Children are not an annoyance to our Lord, and neither should they be to His Bride, the Church.

**Truth #2: *Children have TOTAL access to Jesus. (v. 14)***

- '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.'
- In verse 14, Jesus responds to the actions of the disciples.
- *Undoubtedly Jesus looks over, and sees the disciples pushing and directing the parents away, with possibly even verbally escorting them away from the area where Jesus was.*
- *Mark is the only Gospel writer to include that Jesus was 'indignant' over this.*
  - Both Matthew 19:14 and Luke 18:16 omit that statement, some scholars say it was because they wanted to avoid the idea/thought of Jesus ever being guilty of a sin, like anger.
  - But, what Jesus shows here, as He does elsewhere in the Scriptures, is righteous anger.
    - *While Matthew and Luke Omit that word meaning indignant in the greek text, it's important to note that this is the only time in the Gospels where Jesus is said to be indignant.*

- But what does it mean?
- **\*Word Study\***
  - The english word ‘indignant’ comes from the greek word ‘*Aganakteo*’ ἠγανάκτησε which literally means to arouse to anger. To vent oneself in expressed displeasure than simply ‘stewing’ on it.
  - Jesus expressively get’s righteously anger over this situation.
    - ***Notice that the only time in scripture where Jesus is said to be indignant, was when people were hindering children from coming to Him.***
    - Because Children have total access to Jesus, we must be careful if/when we ever try to hinder them.
  - Scholar James Edwards said ***‘The object of a person’s indignation reveals a great deal about that person. Jesus’ displeasure here reveals his compassion and defense of the helpless, vulnerable and powerless.’***
    - When it comes to children, in this room tonight, we are all on one side of the fence or the other...
    - Either you’re wanting to live children by working in the nursery, wee worship, children’s worship, SS, VBS, family fun nights, Good News Clubs, harvest festivals, and so much more.
- Are you standing up on the evils of abortion, sex trafficking and child poverty?
  - ***The silence you give on certain issues will speak volumes to your children.***
- There’s one important thing to point out here concerning the total access that children have to Jesus.
- ***Hinder Children or Help them?***
  - “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”
  - Jesus, visibly upset and distraught, specifically tells the disciples to not hinder the children from coming to Him.
    - ***Jesus doesn’t devalue the children, He calls them heirs of the Kingdom that He came to earth to establish.***
  - **\*Word Study\***
    - The word ‘hinder’ comes from the greek word ‘*kolyo*’ κωλύετε and literally means to restrain or prevent.
    - What’s interesting about this particular word used here and has created doctrinal issues through the centuries, ***is that this greek word translated to ‘hinder’ is used in Acts 8:36, Acts 10:47 and Acts 11:17 (occurs a total of 23 times in NT).***
    - In those passages, the word is used in connection with baptism, and as a result,

scholars and Church fathers through the years have used this to claim that Jesus meant that children were not to be hindered from being baptized.

○ ***The complete misinterpretation of this verse has led to many denominations fall into the heresy of baptizing infants.***

- ***That is a clear example of Eisegesis (putting your own thoughts and ideas into the text) instead of Exegesis (drawing out the meaning of the text).***

- We must be very careful of this approach in our own personal walk with Christ and studies.

- For years, the second century Church followed this and later denominations formed because of this, and through the years has **hindered** many children.

- Children who thought they were saved just because they were ‘baptized’ as an infant.

○ ***That leads me to ask the question, what are examples of hindering Children in their faith and helping Children?***

○ ***Hindering Children’s Faith.***

- We hinder Children’s Faith when we choose going to the ball game over attending Church.

- We hinder Children’s Faith when we choose sleeping in instead of getting up for Sunday school.
- We can hinder Children’s Faith when we drop them off for Church and don’t go with them.
- We can hinder Children’s Faith when we don’t sing in corporate worship.
- We can hinder Children’s Faith when we fall asleep or stay on our phones during the sermon instead of taking notes.
- We can hinder Children’s faith when we talk bad about the SS teacher, staff, Pastor, and people in the Church in front of our kids.

- ***The bottom line is this. We don’t have to verbally tell our kids and grandkids what our priorities are, we end up showing them by our actions. Our actions tell them what our priorities are.***

- So don’t be surprised if your kids grow up and don’t know Jesus and don’t worship Him when they didn’t see your actions follow what you said...

○ ***Helping Children’s Faith.***

- We can help Children's faith when we evangelize them in a Gospel-saturated home and Church.
  - We can help Children's faith when we disciple them with a Bible-saturated home.
  - We can help Children's faith when we pray with them in a prayer-saturated home.
  - We can help Children's faith when we model in front of them a 'Christ-intoxicated' lifestyle and let them see us living for Jesus in our natural lives.
- ***The main question you must ask yourself tonight, are you helping or hindering your child in their walk with Christ?***

**Truth #3: *Children have a HUMBLE Approach. (v. 15-16)***

- 'Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' **16** And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.'
  - It's not just enough this evening that Children are not an annoyance, and that they have total access, we as adults, must learn that we must come to Christ with childlike faith.
- **\*Illustration\***
  - The great preacher D.L. Moody returned to a friend's home to stay the night after preaching

several revival meetings in a small town in England.

- The host asked Moody '***How many were converted tonight in the meeting?***'
  - D.L. Moody said 'Two and a half'
  - 'What do you mean?' said the friend. The friend said 'You mean 2 adults and 1 child right?'
  - D.L. Moody responded by saying ***No, it was two children and one adult. The Children have given their lives to Christ in their youth, while the adult has come with half of his life.'***
    - Children matter to the Lord, just as adults, a person can accept Christ as a child or as an adult. ***The main thing is that the person has a childlike faith before God.***
  - I think there are \_\_\_ to consider concerning the humble approach that children have.
- ***Discernment of the Parents. (v. 15)***
    - 'Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.'
    - Yes, Jesus does invite children to come and know Him and I believe that Children can truly be saved by Jesus, even at a young age.
    - For example, ***I genuinely accepted Christ at the age of 6, my wife at the age of 8.***
      - Polycarp (Church father) was 9.
      - Matthew Henry was 11.



- Jonathan Edwards was 7.
  - Isaac Watts was 9.
  - Corrie Ten Boom was saved at 5.
- ***There are many who are young who genuinely accept Christ and I believe it can be genuine because Jesus clearly states here that children can enter the Kingdom.***
  - But, at the same time, it's important for parents to see that your job is to discern the motive for why your child is wanting to accept Christ.
    - ***In order to do this, you must first have a relationship with Jesus, but also, be strong enough in your walk with Christ to where you are walking and living in the Holy Spirit.***
- ***Questions a parent must ask when discerning if their child is ready to accept Christ: (Remember, it's not the Pastor's job to 'vet' your child, it's your job as the parent to show discernment that can only come from God).***
  - Does my child understand what sin is?
  - Do they know that they sin and that they were born a sinner?
  - Do they know who Jesus is?
  - Do they know what Jesus did?
  - Do they believe the Bible is absolute truth?
- Do they understand that no one can save them but Jesus?
  - Do they understand that you can't be *rewarded* with Heaven but you must *receive* Jesus?
- ***We must make sure that our children are genuinely convicted by the Holy Spirit and want Jesus to save them. Not to make their parents happy or because someone else is doing it.***
  - Don't ever 'make', 'force', or 'persuade' your child to accept Christ because you want others to look at you differently, in a positive light.
  - Don't play with your child's eternity by possibly giving them a false assurance.
- Discernment is important. God has entrusted you as your child's spiritual steward, take it seriously.
- ***Dependence on God for those who wish to be saved. (v. 15)***
  - 'Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.'
  - While discernment of the parents of children can be gleaned from verse 15, I also think that Jesus makes it clear that no matter our age, we must be dependent on Him for salvation.

- JM said (*what Jesus said here*) ‘*was a severe rebuke of the legalistic works-righteousness system of the Pharisees and their followers, and by extension, of all who trust in their good works to save them.*’
- *We can’t expect to be rewarded in Heaven for something we never actually received, meaning the Gospel!*
  - Faith in Jesus is necessary for salvation. The Gospel is so simple that a child can understand it, yet we as adults often overcomplicate it.

**Conclusion:**

- Tonight we’ve been able to look at and see the Importance of Children in the Kingdom of God.
  - *As we enter into a time of invitation, I want you to think on this tonight:*
    - *How can I better be a Gospel witness to ALL of the Children that are in our building right now by the way that I live my life in front of them for Jesus?*
- We’ve seen:
  - **Truth #1:** *Children are NOT an annoyance. (v. 13)*
  - **Truth #2:** *Children have TOTAL access to Jesus. (v. 14)*
  - **Truth #3:** *Children have a HUMBLE Approach. (v. 15-16)*