

**Sermon series:** Book of Mark  
**Sermon title:** Like a child  
**Scripture passage:** Mark 10:13-16  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
February 18, 2018  
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If you remember, in this section of Mark, Jesus is on the fast track to the cross.

He's headed toward Jerusalem and he's going there to suffer, be rejected, be killed on a cross and rise again on the 3rd day.

As we have seen in Mark chapters 8, 9 & 10, Jesus is teaching the disciples (and us) about what it means to follow him...what it looks like to be a disciple.

- He told us in Mark 8, **“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever will save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”**
- Then we heard God the Father say..on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured, **“This is my beloved Son, listen to him.”** Fundamentally, that is a crucial element of following Jesus.....We must listen to him by **marinating in God’s word.**
- Then we saw Jesus teach the disciples that they needed to live a life of **dependence on God in**

**prayer.** They tried to do ministry apart from him and apart from him, we can do nothing.

- Then we saw the essence of Christian character....**humility**; that **if anyone wants to be first he must be the last and servant of all.**
- And we saw **Kingdom Unity**....how we are to work with others for the sake of the kingdom...Jesus said, **“Whoever is not against us, is for us.”**
- This radical discipleship he calls us to is so crucial that we must **do whatever it takes** to follow him.....**cut off a foot, cut off a hand, tear out an eye**....we are to offer up our bodies as a sacrifice to God; all that we are.
- Last week we heard Jesus’ words on divorce and remarriage....**radical covenant keeping.**

And today we come to a teaching by Jesus about children. It’s not so much ABOUT children but what we can learn FROM them about what it means to follow Jesus in the kingdom.

**Let’s pray.**

So, today there are two things that we need to see.

- 1. What we can learn about children.**
- 2. What we can learn from children.**

Let's read our passage again.

**13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.  
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.  
15 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.**

Let's notice first of all:

**1. What we can learn ABOUT children from Jesus.**

Children in our day and age are highly revered, even to the point of us having small kids who make millions of dollars in show business.

Like young Mia Talerico, who at the age of 9 is worth 2 million dollars.

If there is one piece of meat left on the table, it may go to the child...these days.

In our society, children run the house.

**This was not the case in the 1st century.**

Children were not looked upon as highly.

Maybe it was because it was so easy for kids to die at an early age.

Kids had no rights and many looked down on them until they came of age to be useful in society.

We see this reflected in verses 13-14 in Mark 10.

**13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.**

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.

**The disciples** (for some reason that we don't know, maybe they didn't want them to bother Jesus...maybe they were in a hurry) **pushed the parents or people away who were bringing these kids to Jesus.**

They display the world's view at the time. Children are a kind of inconvenience.

They **REBUKED** the people; hindered them in some way.

**Jesus was furious!**

This word “*indignant*” is only used of Jesus here in the whole Bible. It is a state of anger aroused by injustice.

Jesus displays God's view on children which is found in

**Psalm 127**

**“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them.”**

Jesus values children.  
Jesus loves children.

Notice the words of affection that are used in this passage.

- Let the children ‘**come to me**’. Don’t hinder them.
- He “took them in his arms.”
- He “blessed them, laying his hands on them.”

Like a hen gathers her chicks under her wing...here is Jesus...hugging these precious children...and speaking a spiritual blessing over them....praying for them.

**So,...What can we learn from Jesus ABOUT children?**

They are not an inconvenience.

They are valued in God’s sight.

We should welcome them with an affectionate heart.

We must be careful not to hinder them.

Do we have the mind of Christ about our **own** children?

Are our **own** children an inconvenience to us?

Do we push them aside?

\*I think we need to ponder this question.....in such a busy society....such a busy city....

**Are our own children an inconvenience to us?  
How would Jesus have us love our children.**

What about other people's children?

Are we encouraging or hindering the children of others....to come to Jesus?

**I think in some ways....if we aren't working hard and strategic in engaging children for the kingdom....then we may be hindering them.**

Even when it comes to our church, how much effort will we invest in kids?

How much money will we spend to reach kids in Sai Kung? TKO? Clearwater Bay? HKUST?

Our spending reflects our vision and our vision reflects our heart.

Did you know that we have just a handful of people who serve in the children's area? Just about 5 people are rotating between Sunday School at 9:45 and Children's Church at 11:00.

We need many more.....because Jesus loves children. and we should, too.

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That's what we can learn ABOUT children, but....

**2. What can we learn FROM children about the kingdom of God?**

Look at verses 14 & 15...

**14 “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.**  
**15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

**2 phrases using children as an example for us.**

1. The kingdom of God belongs to folks who are *like* children.
2. (As a matter of fact) You ***MUST*** receive the kingdom like a child.

So, Jesus is saying....look at a child.....and you need to be like that....to be saved...to enter the kingdom.

What does he mean?

Well, it's not innocence that we need....because as one theologian said, **“Children aren't innocent. They are little sinners and we are big sinners.”**

Then what is it? Jesus doesn't tell us....so we have to figure it out.

I'll make the attempt in 3 words.  
**NEEDY. DEPENDENT. HAPPY.**

**1. Children are NEEDY.** They have nothing to bring Jesus. No merits. No claims. No works.  
They just come and receive from salvation from God.

Adults, we don't want anything to be 'given' to us...but a child just takes..... if you are giving.  
**They come to GET not to Give.**

It's very much like what Jesus said....

**Matthew 5:3 says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

**DID YOU COME TO JESUS CAUSE YOU WERE NEEDY? Helpless?**

\*that's the way we must come with empty hands.

## **2. Children are DEPENDENT.**

Children live by faith.

-We have some trampolines in our village and Millie (and her friend) and I do a little game....where I count to 3 and she jumps...jumps off the trampoline into the air and I catch her.

**RAW FAITH AND DEPENDENCE.**

Kids get up and do their thing each day totally dependent on someone else....for everything.

They just trust.

We may ask them, "Do you believe what the Bible says about Jesus?" Many children will say, "Of course, I do." That's why we call it "Childlike faith."

**DO YOU HAVE CHILDLIKE TRUST and DEPENDENCE ON GOD or are you still trying to figure it all out?**



Children are NEEDY.  
Children are DEPENDENT.

AND....  
LASTLY.....

### **3. CHILDREN ARE HAPPY.**

**It might be more comfortable if I used the word 'joyful'. But that's more sanitized. We don't like to talk about happiness. It makes us uncomfortable.**

**We somehow feel like it would be wrong to be happy or to say that we are.**

Children know how to be happy.  
Easy to do when you live dependent on your Father and trust him without a worry.

Easy to be happy when you rest in your Father's care.  
Easy to be happy when every need you have is provided for with certainty.  
All you have to do is hold out your hand and receive.

**[Slowly]....**

**So, when we come to Jesus Christ we are to come like a child....Needy..with nothing to offer him but our sin....Dependent on him alone for saving grace and sustaining grace..... and we come to him to receive happiness....to be satisfied.**

Let me ask you a question.....

**ARE YOU HAPPY?**

**DID YOU COME TO JESUS CHRIST TO GET HAPPY?**

If not, why did you come?

If you're not happy, why aren't you?

You may say.....

I would be happy if I had \_\_\_\_\_.

Well, the way that we **COME** to the arms of Jesus.....needy, dependent...to be happy.....**like a child** ....is the way we are supposed to **REMAIN** close to Jesus.

or maybe I could say it this way.....

**the way to remain close to Jesus is to keep coming like a child....**

Keep being Needy.

Keep being Dependent.

Keep trying to be Happy.

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**Keep your hands open.** Hold all things loosely.

**Keep your heart trusting.** Keep running to your heavenly Father for everything.

**Keep running with joy.** Drink freely *daily* from the fountain of living waters to satisfy your thirst and don't try to quench your thirst for happiness in worldly pleasures.

Be like a child.