

Jesus Corrects the Disciples' View of Children (Luke 18:15-17)

¹⁵ Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

1. Parents _____ Their Children to Jesus

¹⁵ Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them;

- They (masculine = would include _____ genders: fathers & mothers)
- Were Bringing (imperfect – steady stream)
- Their _____ (βρέφη – *brephe*)
- To Jesus (not necessarily completely separate purposes):
 - To _____ (ἅπτω) – *hapto* – “haptic”
 - To _____ For (Matt 19:13)
 - To _____ (Mark 10:16)
 - To _____ (other instances)

2. The Disciples Dutifully _____ the Children

^{15b} but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them.

- They _____ – “having seen”
- They interpreted – the “_____”
 - Children bring _____ to ministry
 - Children are a _____ from ministry
- They _____ – commendable initiative
- They were _____ the parents (Mk 10:13) (imperfect)

3. Jesus _____ the Disciples

¹⁶ But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

- Jesus was greatly displeased (Mark 10:14a)
- Jesus _____ the children to Himself
- Command #1: _____ (x!)
 - The little children (παιδίον – *paidion* – “little children”)
 - To be coming to Me (present tense – ongoing)

d. Command #2: **Do not be** _____ (~!)

e. Jesus Elevates of the _____ Belief of Children:

- Those of this nature
- Defines what the kingdom of God is being

4. Jesus _____ Children to the Kingdom of God

¹⁷ "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

- _____ to receive the kingdom
- By _____ the simple belief of little children
- _____ it impossible for one to enter the kingdom

5. Jesus _____ These Children (Mt 19:15; Mk 10:16)

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Ministry to Children Is _____ to Christianity

- Children are not a distraction to ministry; they are ministry.
- Belief is possible – even likely – for children
- (Dangers: predators)

2. Parental _____ for Their Own Children Is Implied

- This should not be used as an argument against discipline or courtesy.
- This should not be used to discard the responsibility of parents (they brought their children, they didn't send them).
- There is a sense of responsibility and control by the parents, even in this passage.

3. Salvation Is _____

- “Cannot enter the kingdom of God” is our default state. It is what and where we are **unless** a condition is met.
- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless** one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4. Salvation Is _____

- Salvation is as simple as child-like belief in what God has promised (Rom 4:5; John 3:16,18,36; Acts 16:30-31)
- This passage rejects the concept of “saving faith” (versus faith that does not save). There is nothing complicated about a child believing what he/she is told.
- “Easy-believism” is hard to believe, based upon such a passage, if it is defined as anything more than simple belief in what God has promised.