



# SUNDAY CLASS

7/19/09

## Matthew 19:13-15 (New International Version)

### The Little Children and Jesus

**Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.**



**Jesus and the little children**



"We have here the welcome which Christ gave to some little children that were brought to him.

### **I. *The faith of those that brought them.***

*How many they were, that were brought, we are not told; but they were so little as to be taken up in arms, a year old, it may be, or two at most. The account here given of it, is, that there were brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray, v. 13. Probably they were their parents, guardians, or nurses, that brought them; and herein,"*

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

### **Matthew 19:13 (New International Version)**

*The Little Children and Jesus*

***<sup>13</sup>Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.***

### **Mark 10:13-16 (New International Version)**

*The Little Children and Jesus*

*<sup>13</sup>People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup>I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

### **Luke 18:15-17 (New International Version)**

*The Little Children and Jesus*

*<sup>15</sup>People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup>I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

"1. They testified their respect to Christ, and the value they had for his favor and blessing.

**\*\*\*Note, Those who glorify Christ by coming to him themselves, should further glorify him by bringing all they have, or have influence upon, to him likewise.**

Thus give him the honor of his unsearchable riches of grace, his overflowing, never-failing, fullness. We cannot better honor Christ than by making use of him.

2. They did a kindness to their children, not doubting but they would fare the better, in this world and the other, for the blessing and prayers of the Lord Jesus, whom they looked upon at least as an extraordinary person, as a prophet, if not as a priest and king; and the blessings of such were valued and desired. Others brought their children to Christ, to be healed when they were sick; but these children were under no present malady, only they desired a blessing for them.

**\*\*\*Note, It is a good thing when we come to Christ ourselves, and bring our children to him, before we are driven to him (as we say) by woe-need; not only to visit him when we are in trouble, but to address ourselves to him in a sense of our general dependence on him, and of the benefit we expect by him, this is pleasing to him.**

They desired that he would put his hands on them, and pray. Imposition of hands was a ceremony used especially in paternal blessings; Jacob used it when he blessed and adopted the sons of Joseph, Genesis 48:14."

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### **Genesis 48:14 (New International Version)**

***14 But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.***

"It intimates something of love and familiarity mixed with power and authority, and bespeaks an efficacy in the blessing. Whom Christ prays for in heaven, he puts his hand upon by his Spirit.

**\*\*\*Note, (1.) Little children may be brought to Christ as needing, and being capable of receiving, blessings from him, and having an interest in his intercession.**

**(2.) Therefore they should be brought to him. We cannot do better for our children than to commit them to the Lord Jesus, to be wrought upon, and prayed for, by him. We can but beg a blessing for them, it is Christ only that can command the blessing."**

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**"II. *The fault of the disciples in rebuking them.***

*They discountenanced the address as vain and frivolous, and reproved them that made it as impertinent and troublesome. Either they thought it below their Master to take notice of little children, except any thing in particular ailed them; or, they thought he had toil enough with his other work, and would not have him diverted from it; or, they thought if such an address as this were encouraged, all the country would bring their children to him, and they should never see an end of it.*

**\*\*\*Note, It is well for us, that Christ has more love and tenderness in him than the best of his disciples have.**

*And let us learn of him not to discountenance any willing well-meaning souls in their enquiries after Christ, though they are but weak. If he do not break the bruised reed, we should not. Those that seek unto Christ, must not think it strange if they meet with opposition and rebuke, even from good men, who think they know the mind of Christ better than they do."*

\*\*\*MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

**"III. *The favor of our Lord Jesus.***

**Matthew 19:14-15 (New International Version)**

***<sup>14</sup>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." <sup>15</sup>When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.***

**Matthew 18:3 (New International Version)**

***<sup>3</sup>And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.***

**1 Peter 2:2 (New International Version)**

***<sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,***

*See how he carried it here.*

*1. He rebuked the disciples (v. 14); Suffer little children, and forbid them not; and he rectifies the mistake they went upon, Of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

(1.) *The children of believing parents belong to the kingdom of heaven, and are members of the visible church. Of such, not only of such in disposition and affection (that might have served for a reason why doves or lambs should be brought to him), but of such, in age, is the kingdom of heaven; to them pertain the privileges of visible church-membership, as among the Jews of old. The promise is to you, and to your children. I will be a God to thee and thy seed.*

(2.) *That for this reason they are welcome to Christ, who is ready to entertain those who, when they cannot come themselves, are brought to him.*

[1.] *In respect to the little children themselves, whom he has upon all occasions expressed a concern for; and who, having participated in the malignant influences of the first Adam's sin, must needs share in the riches of the second Adam's grace, else what would become of the apostle's parallel? 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:14-15. Those who are given to Christ, as part of his purchase, he will in no wise cast out."*

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### 1 Corinthians 15:22 (New International Version)

***<sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.***

### Romans 5:14-15 (New International Version)

***<sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.***

***<sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!***

"[2.] *With an eye to the faith of the parents who brought them, and presented them as living sacrifices. Parents are trustees of their children's wills, are empowered by nature to transact for their benefit; and therefore Christ accepts their dedication of them as their act and deed, and will own these dedicated things in the day he makes up his jewels.*

[3.] *Therefore he takes it ill of those who forbid them, and exclude those whom he has received: who cast them out from the inheritance of the Lord, and say, Ye have no part in the Lord (see Joshua 22:27); and who forbid water, that they should be baptized, who, if that promise be fulfilled (see Isaiah 44:3), have received the Holy Ghost as well as we, for aught we know."*

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## Joshua 22:27 (New International Version)

***<sup>27</sup> On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the LORD at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, 'You have no share in the LORD.'***

## Isaiah 44:3 (New International Version)

***<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.***

"2. He received the little children, *and did as he was desired*; he laid his hands on them, *that is*, he blessed them. *The strongest believer lives not so much by apprehending Christ as by being apprehended of him (Philippians 3:12), not so much by knowing God as by being known of him (Galatians 4:9); and this the least child is capable of. If they cannot stretch out their hands to Christ, yet he can lay his hands on them, and so make them his own, and own them for his own."*

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## Philippians 3:12 (New International Version)

***Pressing on Toward the Goal***

***<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.***

## Galatians 4:9 (New International Version)

***<sup>9</sup>But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?***