

SUNDAY 25.08.2024

**The Little Children and
the Kingdom of God**

Luke 18: 15-17

(Matthew 19: 13-15, Mark 10:13-16)

▶ People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 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. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

- ▶ **Do children matter in God's kingdom?**
- ▶ **Why do they matter?**
- ▶ **Why were the disciples rebuking people who were bringing their children to Jesus?**

▶ Jesus blessed these little children brought to Him and used them to model the kind of character required to enter the Kingdom of God – what kind of character do children model?

a) Children are simple and humble.

- ▶ Luke 9:46-48, Matt 18:1-4, Mark 9:33-37
- ▶ An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him.

▶ Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.”

▶ **Mathew 18:1-4;**

▶ “... Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.” “Whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

b) Children trust

- ▶ 15 People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. (Luke 18:15).
- ▶ The disciples were complaining, yet Jesus was looking for people who would just trust without asking so many questions.

▶ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:28-29)

c) Children have dependent faith.

- ▶ “I am the vine you are the branches. If a man remains in me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

- ▶ It seems easier to depend on the Lord when disease deteriorates the body than when anger allies with my attitude.
- ▶ Dependence on God means we need Him, and we understand that without Him we are unable to accomplish anything of Kingdom significance.

Conclusion.

- ▶ As the people brought their children to be blessed, is it that the disciples did not see the need for Jesus to bless the children? No, I think they thought that this was too lowly a task for the master to engage in.

▶ In their view the master had thousands of people who needed his attention, these little ones were not worth the time and effort.

- ▶ Their perception was that the children were not worthy of the master's time and were less important to attend to than what he was doing.