

THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPELS

"Jesus and Children"

Matthew 19:13-15

Aug 10, 1986

INTRODUCTION

1. Today there is plenty of talk about the divorce problem. We studied that last Lord's Day (vv. 3-12).
2. The present study continues the "family" as a subject of concern. This time the subject is "children." Both "women" and "children" are considered the weaker members of the family and the concern of the Lord. The Lord defends both and therefore the family unit.
3. Consider how the Lord accents parents and children, hence the family unit:-

1. PRESENTATION v. 13

a. What?

Mark and Luke employ the imperfect tense of the verb "bring" noting a continuous stream of parents coming to Christ with their children. Matthew uses the aorist passive to note the weakness and dependence of the children. The verb is dramatically used in Scripture of gifts brought to Christ (Mt. 2:11) and of sacrifices to God (Heb. 5:1, 3; 9:7; 10:12). Significantly, then, the parents came with children in a solemn act of dedication to God.

b. Who?

Two specific words are used of the children. Luke refers to infants (18:15 cf Lk 1:41, 44; 2:12, 16) while Matthew and Mark use a word which has varied ages in view (Lk 2:43; Mt. 8:6, 8, 13; Mk 5:39, 42).

c. Why?

The purpose for bringing the children is stated by Mark and Luke as "touch." Matthew explains the "touch" as to "lay hands upon" and to "pray" (cf. Gen. 40:14, 15). This is a remarkable truth if these events took place in Perea. Thank God for discerning parents who desire His blessing for their children.

2. REJECTION v. 13

a. Recorded

All three Synoptics record the disciples' rebuke. The imperfect tense shows they were incessant in their efforts. The verb means to unjustly check or blame another but to do it ineffectually. The rebuke was unwarranted and without result.

b. Responded

The text states our Lord "saw" the rebuke by the disciples. This touched Him and He "was moved with

indignation " This means He "felt pain." It is a strong word of deep emotion and proper under certain circumstances (cf. 2 Cor. 7:11).

3. ACCEPTATION v. 14

a. Extended

Luke alone records that Jesus calls to the parents and the children. It is a special tender word about our Lord by Luke.

b. Recorded

All of the Synoptics have it. The verb "suffer" means "allow" or "permit" and being an aorist imperative suggests "leave them alone!" This is followed by the present imperative "stop hindering them." Matthew and Luke add "and" between the verbs to soften the sharp decisive commands.

c. Accomplished Mk 10:16

The verbs "took, blessed, and laying" indicate what our Lord did with the children. "Took" means to take in the arms (only in Mk 9:36 and here). "Blessed" is an intensified verb in the imperfect, hence, He "kept on blessing fervently."

4. EXPLANATION v. 14

a. About children

The phrase "of such" denotes that children are included in the kingdom. Child evangelism is right. But also--children go to heaven if they die in infancy (cf. 2 Sam. 12:22, 23; Rom. 5:17).

b. About salvation Mk 10:15; Lk 18:17

Matthew does not include this, only Mark and Luke. To get saved one must be child-like (not childish) in faith. Note the kingdom must be "received." One is not physically born into it. It is for those capable of receiving it (note: infants, children, handicapped are covered by Rom. 5:17).

CONCLUSION

Parents, children, and families are critical to the Lord. May they be for us also. Amen.