

August 19, 2020

Blessing the Children

Learning when it's time to pass it on.

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

The children (likely all children under seven, perhaps even some infants) did not just run off the playground to see what was going on. They were brought. It was probably by their parents. They do not appear to be coming for healing or specific ministry to needs.

The desire was simply for Jesus to place his hands on them and bless them.

What do today's children (and teens) need?

They need parents who will love them enough to bring them to Jesus, but not every child has those parents. So they need people not named mom or dad to bring them to Jesus or to bring Jesus to them.

They need to hear Jesus words of love, but many kids are not reading those words or hearing them at home. You and I become the voice they will hear or the life they will see that speaks those words or shows that love.

But we cannot *ever* let them get in the way of the time that we need to spend with Jesus. — Scratch that — DISREGARD — REWIND and NEVER say that again!

Maybe that's the biggest lesson hear. It's not always about ME.

The continued discipleship of each believer is important, but after a fairly short period of time with his disciples, Jesus began appointing them to go preach to others. In this story, you can fill in the toughest and conversation...

Peter: Hey John, there are some kids coming in behind you. Make sure they don't get in here too far because we are spending time with Jesus.

John: OK. Hey James, go tell those parents that we're busy here. Jesus is teaching us, and we can't have their kids interrupting Jesus' teaching.

James: I'm on it, John. You think some fire from heaven will keep them back?

Thomas: I doubt it, but you could try.

Then Jesus steps in. Not just to suggest something different, but indignant! He's angry. Furious. Mad that his disciples still think they have special seats reserved with Jesus and that others aren't welcome. Maybe he shouldn't have called these grown men to be the first 12. Maybe he should have visited the local grade school and started a kid's ministry and groomed them up — it would have been easier to shape and mold them than these stubborn men.

Take some time to let God show you what it means to be moldable as a child. To let him reset your mind, eliminate ways of thinking that you've developed as an adult, and begin again as a child; learning and growing.

Take some time to think about the necessity of your continued learning, but not at the expense of another being reached for the first time.