

Little Children
Mark 10:13-14
Charlie Brackett

Our text says, "Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them." I can visualize this scene, can't you? There is Jesus, perhaps sitting on an elevated spot slightly above those who gathered around to hear His controversial yet authoritative teaching. He had been explaining God's view of marriage showing that divorce and remarriage were not allowed by God except when one is guilty of fornication. No doubt some who heard Jesus' comments wanted to argue with Him.

But, just then, on the perimeter of the group, a commotion arose. Some folks had brought children to see Jesus. They wanted them to feel the Savior's touch. What blessings would be theirs if only He touched them! But the disciples had other ideas. Jesus was involved in a very adult discussion; it was no place for children. What part did they have in a discussion of marriage? What did they know of legal matters? So the disciples tried to prevent them from advancing further, and that caused some little commotion. Jesus looked up and became displeased at what they did. He said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

The disciples' actions are not uncommon. Adults often exclude children from grownup activities. Of course, children cannot participate in everything that adults do. But, what the Master did here should cause us to take a fresh look at little children. The stuff of which little ones are made is key to our own entry into God's kingdom.

Imagine an adult world without the influence of little children. Who would remind us of the qualities of character so common to children? In whom else resides that same purity, that simple, child's innocence? Who could lead us to that unquestioning trust and submission which comes so easily to the young? Or who could teach us to smile through the tears, or to bounce right back from some slight or mistreatment to love again? And, who could possibly frame for us the same positive outlook on life and set the same example of hope for the future?

We need little children. Not just that heritage may continue, but that we might be influenced by them to be better than we are. When Jesus saw the little children, He did not see an intrusion where children do not belong, nor an interruption of important matters. What He saw were the qualities of character so desperately needed by all of us who aspire to have a part in the heavenly kingdom. Observe little children that you may become like they.