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**LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME | ROAD TRIP | JULY 16, 2017**

**MARK 10:13-16**

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

14 When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. 15 I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." 16 Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

**CONTEXT & SURROUNDING EVENTS**

- Who is the greatest in the Kingdom? [Mark 9:33-37]
- Who can and cannot use the name of Jesus? [Mark 9:38-50]
- Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife? [Mark 10:1-12]
- The parable of the persistent widow [Luke 18:1-8] & the parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector [Luke 18:9-14]
- **Let the little children come to me [Mark 10:13-16]**
- Jesus' conversation with 'the rich man.' [Mark 10:17-31]
- Jesus placing a child among them in the 'GREATEST OF THE KINGDOM' conversation is pivotal.
- He's saying *it's not the child's job to become like the king, it's the king's job to become like a child. In fact, if you embody the image of a child, you embody the image of God.*

**PARENTS - [vs. 13a]**

- The children weren't in need of an immediate result. They wanted to RECEIVE Jesus' EMBRACE.
- They parents had faith that only Jesus could care for the hearts and souls of their children.
- The embrace of God is not a substitute for care - it's the vehicle which care travels. That's consistent with the nature and character of God.

### **DISCIPLES - [vs. 13b]**

- The Disciples act like bouncers/middle-men for Jesus. They appear to exclude those who aren't in their circle, as if they need to protect Jesus' reputation or keep him efficient with his time.
- A true disciple must become as a child to receive the kingdom rather than act like an overseer, who drives others away.

### **JESUS & THE LITTLE CHILDREN - [vs. 14-16]**

- THESE ARE MY PEOPLE! This is who the Kingdom of God belongs to! Those who will trust in me, and will receive it.
- The Good News is good, not because you are, but because I Am!
- John Ortberg writes in his book 'Who is this Man'
  - *"Jesus' compassion came from his outrageous love for every individual, and his pain whenever anyone is undervalued. In all the stories of Jesus' compassion, we are never told that he has compassion on someone because they deserved it. It was only because they were in need."*
- How do we receive the Kingdom of God like a child?
  - The look on a child's face when tossed playfully into the air by a parent is joy, there's no doubt in their mind that they will be caught.
- Matthew Henry's commentary writes:
  - *"Children are to be instructed, so must we be. Little children depend on their parents' wisdom and care, and they are carried in their arms and accept what they provide for them - this is how we must receive the kingdom of God..."*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does it look like for you to receive the Kingdom of God like a child?
  2. Do you feel like you might be excluding yourself or others from Jesus' embrace?
  3. What ways might you need to trust God? Do you find it easy or difficult to trust God?
  4. What might God be wanting you to receive in your current situation?
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