

## **CHRIST'S CURTAIN CLIMBERS** *(Mark 10:13-16)*

*Jesus radically capsized the system of values the world had and gave respect and service to the overlooked and helpless. Jesus not only showed the value God places on the helpless but also explained that it is helplessness that is necessary to enter a relationship with Him.*

### **I. JESUS PLACED GREAT VALUE ON CHILDREN (vv. 15-16)**

1. There was a celebrated custom going back to the patriarchs where parents would bring their children to a celebrated religious figure for a blessing.
  - A long line had occurred with the hustle and bustle of families.
2. But the disciples rebuked them.
  - We are not told the disciples' exact motive, but it appears they believed these families were bothering Jesus or threatening Him.
3. Jesus responded sharply.
  - Jesus loves children.
  - But what we tend to forget most is that Jesus was a child.
    - He was an infant, a child, a teenager, a man.
    - Jesus experienced these things because he cares for all.
    - The Kingdom belongs to these and others like them.
4. Herein lies our call to share the Gospel with young people.
  - Every one of us has a role of some kind in reaching the next generation with the Gospel. That means committing to prayer, to giving, and to volunteering.
  - We must never pressure children for unrealistic decisions, but we must cultivate their spiritual awareness and sensitivity.
5. Jesus said the Kingdom belongs to "such as these."
  - He is talking about not just children, but the helpless and overlooked. Who in our culture might be in that category? Who among them might need the message of the Gospel?

### **II. JESUS SAID TO GET INTO THE KINGDOM ONE MUST BE LIKE A CHILD (vv. 15-16)**

1. Recognizing our insignificance is what God places value on.
2. Then He made a powerful exclusive statement:
  - He said that the Kingdom of God belongs to those like children. And if one doesn't receive the Kingdom like a child, he doesn't get into the Kingdom.
3. Jesus wasn't saying one has to be a child to get into the Kingdom, but *like* a child.
  - The children had no merited virtues—no self-achievement to point to.
  - It was not their virtues that Jesus points out, but what they lacked.
  - To receive the Kingdom of God, one must come as a child, meaning with no credits, no clouts, no claims.
    - They come in faith, not by personal achievement.

*If we are to receive the gift of salvation and entrance into the Kingdom, we must be like children. If believers are going to commune with God, then we must be like children. "Jesus is tender and affectionate to those who bring nothing to Him but their need."—Danny Akin.*