

# “LET THE LITTLE ONES COME!”

MATTHEW 19:13-15

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## INTRODUCTION

It is important to look at the context of this passage to see what precedes: a discussion about divorce and remarriage. The effects of divorce are very difficult on the spouses, but the children are the ones who suffer the most. How appropriate that our Lord shows compassion and loving concern upon these children.

Here we see parents who are concerned for their children.

- Were the homes completed with two parents?
- Were the homes with single parents?
- At any rate, the mothers/parents realized that Jesus is the one who could help their children, and they brought the children to Him.

Place: Southern Perea—across the Jordan east of Jerusalem.

Time: A few days before Jesus’ triumphal entry.

Circumstances: The weight of what lay ahead of Him must have been heavy upon Jesus—yet, as usual—He takes the time to minister to the needs of those **who were not considered important** by society.

- Did Jesus ever turn anyone away who sincerely needed help?
- We have children, grand-children, great-grand-children, and neighborhood children who need help!
- Has there ever been a time in America when children faced such massive corruption, confusion, spiritual dearth and blight as what we have in our culture today?
- Berean Baptist Church is an **oasis** in this spiritual desert right here in San Tan Valley; and this week we have a very special opportunity to reach out to children and their families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

**THIS WEEK, BRING THE LITTLE CHILDREN [and bigger ones too!] TO JESUS SO THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED AND GROW!**

### I. THE CONCERN OF THE PARENTS (13a)

A. Age and size of the children—small; likely toddlers or preschool; called “babes” in Luke 18:15.

B. Purpose for Bringing: Lay his hands on them [tender loving touch], bless them (Mk. 10:16), pray for them.

- Notice that Jesus does **not baptize** them!
- The order of doctrinal confusion over the years has been:
  - 1) Baptismal regeneration
  - 2) Infant baptism
  - 3) Sprinkling
- All of these teachings/practices are unbiblical and have resulted in many lost souls thinking that they are saved!

C. Do little children go to heaven when they die?

1. This passage does not say, but does say that one must “receive the kingdom of God like a child or they will not enter it at all (Mk. 10:15; Lk. 18:17).
2. No one can go to heaven except on the basis of Christ’s atonement and the work of the Holy Spirit—Jn. 14:6; 1:11-12; 20:31. Work of HS—Jn. 16:8-11.
3. The kingdom belongs to those who consciously possess it and submit to Christ—**trusting Him**.
4. Children are quick to believe and to trust in Christ when presented the truth and given the opportunity.
5. The children here were obviously of that kind and were favorably responding—believing in Jesus.

6. We believe that if children die before they reach the age when they can understand the Gospel truth, then God will receive them on the basis of the atoning work of Christ alone—not on some special merit of the child—for they are fallen sinners also!

## II. THE CRITICISM OF THE DISCIPLES (13b)—“Rebuked them”

### A. The Reason

1. Interrupted Jesus’ teaching
2. Imposition upon Jesus—many had already come to Jesus for healing
3. Jesus did not have a family, and should not be bothered with other people’s children.
4. Children were not considered to be all that important until they got older.

### B. The Problem

1. The Needs of children are trivial.
2. These children were not sick.
3. The disciples had forgotten the object lesson given them by Jesus in Mt. 18:1-6.

## III. THE COMPASSION OF THE SAVIOR (14-15)

### A. Angry with his disciples (Mk. 10:14).

- Jesus loved children; **so should good men [and women]!**
- What right did Jesus’ disciples have to determine who could approach Him.

### B. Admonition to his disciples

1. “Let them alone & do not hinder them from coming to me.”  
I would add: “Help them to come unto me!”
2. “To such as these belongs the kingdom of Heaven.”
  - To “child-like” persons.
  - Not to the children themselves; cf. Mt. 18:3—“**Unless you are converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**”
  - If infants and toddlers were intended here, then all would go to heaven, not just those dying in infancy, and those becoming believers.
  - Even if “of such” also meant children, *it does not follow that they should be baptized*. In fact, just the opposite would seem to be the case!

### C. Prayer for the Children

## CONCLUSION

1. Parents should seek the Lord’s blessing on infant children.
2. It is a Great Fault to take little or no interest in children.
3. Jesus’ followers ought to be childlike in faith and trust in the Lord.
4. This passage does not teach God’s special love for Sunday School children! They are deeply conscious of sin, and ought to repent and ask for a new heart, forgiveness, etc.
5. Those in church are **more highly accountable than others**. They had better get right with God!
6. Church attenders must not think that they are better than anyone else.

**Are you bringing your little ones to Jesus?**

**Are you bringing other little ones to Jesus?**

**WHAT A JOY IF SOMEONE YOU INVITE/BRING TO NBT THIS WEEK IS SAVED?**

**WHAT A TRAGEDY IF SOMEONE YOU COULD HAVE INVITED THIS WEEK DOES NOT COME AND GET SAVED!**