



International Baptist Church Eindhoven

Your Christian Family Away From Home



MARK 10:13-16

'LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME'

IBC Eindhoven, 4 July 2021



Forbidden by law in the Netherlands since 2007



ISRAEL ↔ SURROUNDING CULTURES

- Israel was commanded to regard children as belonging to God – girls and boys
- ...to whom the historical Divine events of creation, redemption and the Torah must be handed down...
- And yes, going to a rabbi and ask him to bless the children was/is part of Jewish culture

DISCIPLES HINDERED THE CHILDREN

- Context is Mark 9:33-38 Jesus' teaching about 'the greatest'
 - a little child to illustrate the dynamics of the Kingdom
- Disciples were managing the crowd and organising priorities – *very needy first*
- Then came parents with their kids...

JESUS' TEACHING – MARK 10:14

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these

- Jesus doesn't say children are more important
 1. Coming to Jesus = to the kingdom/reign of God
 2. Something about life in the kingdom is reflected in little children's behaviour

JESUS' TEACHING – MARK 10:15

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it

- Receiving as a little child ↔ as an adult
 1. No claiming
 2. No reasoning
 3. No sense of unworthiness

CHILDREN ARE VULNERABLE

Child abuse is not stopped through legislation

1. Beware of your own emotions – anger/fears
2. Beware of your own desires – physically, emotionally (unreached goals in your life)
3. Reflect on your words and behaviour
 - repent whenever necessary
 - share (with your spouse) and ask for help

JESUS' BLESSING – MARK 10:16

And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them

1. Embracing, hugging: tenderly, lovingly
2. Put his hands on them - i.e. on their heads
3. Blessed them
 - to bless is to confirm God's love, calling and purpose in words, prayers and deeds

SUMMARY

1. What and who is important in the kingdom
 - Also Mark 14:3 and Romans 12:2
2. Something about life in the kingdom is reflected in little children's behaviour
 - No claim, No reasoning, No sense of unworthiness
3. To bless is to confirm God's love, calling and purpose in words, prayers and in deeds



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