

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it"

(Mark 10:15).

Some people in this passage (maybe parents, big brothers, sisters, or perhaps even some friends of Jesus) were bringing children to Jesus as He taught the crowds in the countryside, and the disciples rebuked them.

Children are just children. Were they important to Jesus? Little children are simple. They play, they cry, they pout, they know when they are naughty, they laugh, they believe.... And one day when they grow up, they become adults. Then they will take responsibility and think better and do grown-up things.

But now they are just children. Adults thought they could understand what Jesus was saying, and they, not the children, needed to hear Jesus. Adults take care of children. Adults can teach the children about Jesus. The children should stay out of the way so the adults could learn.

That may be what the disciples were thinking. But can you imagine how you would feel if your child had such an opportunity to come to Jesus personally—to have the man Jesus Christ, who was God incarnate upon earth—take your child into His arms and bless him and lay His hands on him?

And who is a child? In God's eyes, a child is very special. And a child has the innate ability to receive Jesus in a way that no adult has, in a childlike manner.

Not childish, which would be immature and silly, but childlike, which is innocent and trusting. In society (for the most part) an adult who is innocent and trusting is seen as a foolish person. If an adult can be taken advantage of, then it is his own fault. According to society, a person should be crafty, worldly wise, and astute.

How should one be in coming to Jesus?

We can't get close to God by our craftiness, by our worldly wisdom, or by our own devices. We must become like a child. ***"Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it"*** (Mark 10:15).

We must put aside our preconceived ideas and truly look at Him and listen so we hear Him and let Him speak to our hearts of His love for us and His Father's love for us. We cannot figure it out. We must simply open up to the wonder of it all and receive Him. Receive all that Jesus has for us and not try to earn it or pay Him back.

Does a child think he can deserve love like this? No, but he is able to accept it! Does a child try to pay back a wonderful gift he receives? He knows he can't, so he takes it and says, "Thank you." The child may be so appreciative that he will try harder to please. The child may even try to give a little gift of love in return, but he knows it doesn't match in value. And, of course, we all know that a child will not be a perfect....

**But God still loves him. And, in the same way,
He loves you and me!**