

Jesus Love Children

- Marg: clearly focus today's service. Gen 2 (instttn); Eph 5 (clearest, most spcfc psg re God's will); in Gos J speaks directly re marg. Phars try trick into saying smthng vs marg or Moses. J very strongly: affirms sncty/marg & condemns sin/divrc. Obviously J loves, defends, protects marg.
- Last sev times I've preachd this text: focusd primrly on 1st part les, re marg/divrc. But in last few vss, J shifts from marg/divrc to God's gift/chldrn. From blssng/marg comes blssng/chldrn. Nowhere that more obvious than when J & Gen: 2 become 1. A child is litrly the 1 that comes from 2. So today I'd like focus 2nd part this psg, re chldrn, and help us see and more fully appreciate fact: J loves chldrn.
- **Vs. 16.** This may be single most hrtwrmng, tendr, gentle pic/J we have in whole Bible. He's got little chldrn (infnts, toddlrs, PKers) on lap, in arms; they're laughng; twinkle of joy in J's eyes. Just beautfl scene! Think re artwork you've seen of J w/chldrn; lots famous paintngs. I want tell you re paintng: at Salem school. Captures tender, loving care of our Sav for chldrn. J loves chldrn.
- Prnts love chldrn, too. If you're prnt, know what means love chld. Prnts here in Mk 10 love chldrn. What impresses me most re these prnts: they know what's most imp for their chldrn. **Vs. 13a.** These prnts: bringng chldrn to J; wanted their chldrn have J, have his blessing! Wanted J put hands on them, bless them. Think re pwr of J's hnd: Pt's mthr-in-law fever, took by hand, healed (Mk 1:31); man w/leprsy (contagious), reached/touched (1:41); when raised Jairus' dghtr fr dead, took by hnd (5:41); remem deaf/mute man, J fingers ears, touched tongue w/hnd (7:33). Again/again in Goss, ppl want J touch them w/hnd, bec J's hand brings healing/blessing. And so here, prnts are bringing chldrn to J, to be blessed by J, bec they know: J loves chldrn.
- And if you love your chldrn, you'll do same thing. Xian prntng is **bringing...vs. 13a.** That is your #1 priority as prnt. Lot things can do w/kids; lot good activts you get kids involvd in; you have thngs teach, places show them. But nothng more imp than bringng chldrn to J! And if nothng more imp than brngng chldrn to J, then why isn't this ch filled w/kids? Where they? Where prnts? Certly have plenty chldrn membrs/cong. Wkend club sports trnmnts; up north on vaca; waiting bring kids to ch until behavd; at home w/kids sleeping in bec this one day be tog as fam? Has Covid reminded us how easy is to skip ch? These prnts here: got up, got kids ready, made it priority to bring chldrn to J. We need do same. Nothing is more imp; nothing else will set our kids on right path as young Xians than having prnts who prioritize J. If you want see your chldrn in his arms, on lap, and grow up be mature Xian adults (and maybe smday Xian prnts thmselvs), then bring chldrn to J! Opptnties abound. Bring kids to ch so learn worship. LES, where teach Gos (Xp died, rose, hvn); SS (poorly attndd; bring to SS); PPH; VBS; Pioneers. So much of our focus here at SJ is on children. And that's on purp: bec J loves chldrn; wants them know his love. When discs started turning these prnts away, J "**indignant,**" just means: did not like it, one bit. And J is just as indignant w/us when we deprioritize what's truly imp, and let million other excuses/activts get in way of bringng our chldn to J. God help us if we lose our focus as Xian prnts & adults and fail to bring chldrn to J.
- What J want? Said: **vs. 14b.** Kngdm/God is kngdm/faith; kngdm where God rules in hrts of his ppl by faith in Xp as Sav. So kngdm/God is Ch/God, HCC, all bels evwhere, regrdls age, who believe like chldrn. **Vs. 14b-15.** The childlike chrctr trait J looking for: trust. He wants us trust him; that's essence of faith: trust. If you're baby, you don't think things like: how pay mortgage; how afford pay bills; what going do for dinner; how get evthng done? Chldrn don't think like that. We adults have all these worries; all obligations must meet; we carry heavy burdens, thinking: all depends on me. Chldrn don't think like that. They know: I need smone protect me, feed, take care. They can't do on own. Interesting: one word for a child: dependent (taxes). Perf word. Childrn are depndnt; need be cared for. So all they have is trust! They don't worry; simply trust they'll be cared for.
- When comes to kngdm/God, that's attitude J wants us have. Wants us trust, like a child/God, who knows: I cannot save self, work way into hvn, pay for own sins, fix brokenness in my life on my own. Smone has do it for me! And that smone is J. To receive kngdm/God like little child (as J says here)

means trusting w/childlike faith that Xp has done evthng to save you & will do evthng to bless you. Do you believe that? Do you live like that? Or do you still live like evthng depends on you? Childlike faith means trusting not in self but in Xp, who has done evthng save you, & will do evthng bless you.

- And if ever doubt that, then just remem this psg: vs. 16. And guess what: you're one those little chldrn! When J said vs. 14b, that includes you. As a Xian, belvr in J, you are child/God, even if adult. Means: God Fr; J Bro; you are sis/bro to J, who loves you so much, gave life cross for you; suffered death & rose again bring you into fam/God. You have best big Bro in wrld, perf Fr in hvn, bec you are a child/God! Do not take that for granted. J loves chldrn, and J loves you.
- In today's Gos, J first talks re marg; but then talks re chldrn. Marg is sacred; divrc is sinful; 6th Com (adultery) covers many sins and is meant to protect marg. Also meant protect chldrn. J loves chldrn. Remem those paintngs we talked about, like of J w/chldrn at Salem? I want you paint pic of own, in own mind, of J w/chldrn, and I want you paint yourself into that pic. J is smiling; you are beside him; you trust him w/childlike faith. And you hear him say: vs. 14b, to such as you. J loves chldrn.

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

