

JESUS' BLESSING OF LITTLE CHILDREN  
(Matthew 19:13-15)

- I. The PARTICULAR DETAILS of the Event (Matt. 19:13-15)
  - A. CHILDREN were being BROUGHT to Him (19:13)
    1. The PARENTS were bringing them
    2. They were YOUNG CHILDREN
    3. The children were being BLESSED, not SAVED
    4. The disciples "REBUKED them"
  - B. Jesus REBUKED the DISCIPLES (19:14)
    1. This was a STERN REBUKE
      - a. He did NOT say the Kingdom belonged to THESE CHILDREN
      - b. They REPRESENTED those to whom the Kingdom BELONGS (Mk. 10:15; Lk. 18:17; cf. Matt. 18:2-3)
    2. He was performing an IMPORTANT MINISTRY
      - a. For the PARENTS to know they had ACCESS to Him
      - b. For the CHILDREN to learn of His COMPASSION for them
      - c. For the DISCIPLES to remember the NATURE of the Kingdom

C. Jesus “DEPARTED from there” (19:15)

1. He blessed ALL who CAME
2. He did not STAY to CONTINUE

II. The PROVIDENTIAL TIMING of the Event

A. Jesus had just finished instruction on the PERMANENCE of MARRIAGE  
(Matt. 19:1-12)

1. Couples must be COMMITTED to TRUSTING GOD together (19:1-12)
2. Parents must be UNITED in bringing their CHILDREN to JESUS  
(19:13-15; cf. Deut. 6:4-9)

B. Jesus had commanded the disciples to demonstrate CHILDLIKE HUMILITY  
(Matt. 18:1-35)

1. One must COME to Him in childlike FAITH (18:1-4)
2. One must LIVE in genuine CONCERN for one another (18:5-14)
3. One must PRACTICE a life of FORGIVENESS (18:15-35)

III. The POWERFUL LESSONS of the Event

A. MINISTRY must include INSTRUCTION of CHILDREN

B. FAMILY life must be CHRIST centered

C. Participation in the KINGDOM requires CHILDLIKE faith