



LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

MARK 10:13-16

What ages were the children who were brought to Jesus?;

LUKE 18:15

Now they were bringing even *infants* to him that he might touch them.

Jesus does not touch in a magical or supernatural way, but to express closeness and a paternal-type care;

MATTHEW 19:13

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them *and pray*.

"Coming to Jesus" is an expression of salvation;

JOHN 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever *comes to me* shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

JOHN 7:37

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him *come to me* and drink."

MATTHEW 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Why does Jesus say we must be like children?;

MATTHEW 11:16-17

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn."

Jesus' command to be childlike is not referring to any *subjective character quality* of humility or meekness, but to their *objective status* of dependance and helplessness necessarily resulting in a unassuming and unassuming receiving of the gift.

Jesus' foundational teaching on spiritual poverty;

MATTHEW 18:3

"Truly, I say to you, *unless you turn and become like children*, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 5:3

"*Blessed are the poor in spirit*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 19:24

"Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

MARK 2:17

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus' remarkable blessing of the children;

LUKE 6:28

...bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

ROMANS 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Bless: To call or invoke the gracious presence and favor of God upon one

The sharp rebuke of Jesus;

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27-29

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

How do we bring the children to Jesus?

1. Pray for them

Your prayers will not compel God to act upon their souls, but you have no reason to expect God to act without your prayers.

2. Example for them

Your life-example will either validate the gospel they hear, or it will harden them to the gospel they hear.

3. Teach them

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how *from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*