

**Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"**  
**"Learning From Children"**  
**Luke 18:15-17**  
**Study-74**

**Instructions to Fathers to bring their children to Jesus!**

**The passage reverses and reveals that Fathers and Mothers Can Receive Instruction through their children: Being As A Child, Receiving As A Child.**

**Context - Luke 18 The Disciples' Call To Radical Faith: Verses 15-17 Childlike Faith, Adults need to learn from children about the type of faith that God desires if we are going to enter the kingdom of God!**

**The Thought Of Our Passage:** "Dedicated Kingdom Living Begins With Childlike Faith And Continues With Open Invitations To All Children"

- 1. Verse 15 Blessing Of A Child**
- 2. Verse 16 Being As A Child**
- 3. Verse 17 Receiving As A Child**

**1. Verse 15 Blessing Of A Child:**

**Luke 18:15 And Context** – Jesus told a parable about the "Right Heart In Prayer" **Verses 9-14** Repentant Faith He told of the Pharisee and the Tax-collector that went into the temple to pray. **Luke 18:14**

All three Gospels recorded children coming to Jesus **Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17** But **Matthew**, and **Mark** record that Jesus had just spoken about divorce, now He speaks about children.

**Context** – Luke now Joins **Matthew** and **Mark** since breaking away back in **Luke 9:51**, All 3 Gospels recorded this which follow's the account of the rich young ruler.

**they were bringing even their babies** Who is the "**they?**" **they** – Greek *pronoun is masculine*, includes the fathers. Other gospels, the parents of children that brought them. Parents brought their children to Jesus.

**In the Jewish culture the father was responsible for the spiritual training of the children.** Luke records this, they brought their children to Jesus.

**their babies to Him Mark 10:13 children - Matthew 19:13 children,** here **babies** "*babe, (young) infant*" (*under 12 months*) children from infants to mature one's. **(Fathers had to literally carry their children to Jesus!)**

**so that He would touch them, Matthew** said, "**Lay His hands on them and pray.**" We see this practice back in **Genesis 9:26-27** Noah blessed Shem and Japheth. **Genesis 26** Isaac blesses Jacob, Esau, **Genesis 48:14** when Jacob laid his hands on Joseph's boys to give them a blessing.

The Jewish Elders used to pray this, "*that the child would be famous in the Law, faithful in marriage and abundant in good works*"

### **Parents Should Bring Their Children To Jesus:**

*How do we bring our children to Jesus?*

- 1. Bring Thru Prayer** - We have the responsibility to pray for them. To daily bring them before the Lord in prayer. **(Context two parables involving prayer)**
- 2. Bring Thru Instruction** - We are to train them, to bring them up, in the discipline and instruction in the Lord.

**Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

**Common life experiences**

**A child that has questions about God (They all do) we need to encourage, through helping them to find the answers.**

- 3. Bring Thru Example** - We can pray for them, we can teach them, but it can all be for nothing if we are living hypocritical lives.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-6**

**We can't take our children where we have not gone ourselves.**

**Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,**

The word **rebuked** - "*to reprove, censure severely, reprimanded them, charge one with wrong*" *As the waves of children and parents were coming to Jesus, the disciples were systematically chewing them out!*

**Possible Reason - Disciples saw children as little importance:**

**Apostate Judaism that taught you earned your way to heaven by good works. Children couldn't do that.**

**Possible Reason - Protecting Jesus who was possibly exhausted:**

**Mark 10:14** But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them,

**Only Mark Notes Jesus Emotion! But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant** - Literally "*much grieved, to be very grieved, very angry, irate to severely reprimand*"

The disciples may have had the **best of motives, but still wrong!**

## **2. Verse 16 Being As A Child:**

**Luke 18:16** But Jesus called for them, Jesus calls (invites) the children to come to Him, children that were pushed way! (Bring the babies)

**saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them,** Jesus could be proclaimed as "**Jesus The Lover of Children**"

A pastor made this observation, "**No one knows the age of the youngest person in Hell!**"

**Babies before they reach accountability for believing or not believing, are under special divine care. 2 Samuel 12:23 "I will go to him"**

**to such as these.** Jesus did not say, "*the kingdom belongs to the children He was holding*" **such as these** "*those who are like the little ones*"

**As A Child, Helplessness/Dependence** – every child regardless of what country, regardless of poverty/wealth, regardless of their background. For years a child is helpless and dependent on others. Without the help of an adult, they will not make it!

**Context** – Jesus just gave a **parable of a Pharisee who trusted in himself.** God became his debtor because he did it all, without the help of God.

**All three gospels follow up this incident with the story of "The Rich Young Ruler" Luke 18:18 what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"**

**Children Are A Powerful Illustration That Salvation Is By Grace.**

## **3. Verse 17 Receiving As A Child:**

**Luke 18:17 "Truly"** Literally "*This is of a great truth, listen up this is important*"

**We Must Enter The Kingdom Like A Child: receive the kingdom of God like a child** How do we do that? Jesus does not give the specifics of

what it is to be like a child but leaves it up to us to study and learn from our children.

**will not enter it at all."** Greek double negative - "*shall never, never, enter*"

### **What Characteristics Can We Learn From Children To Enter His Kingdom?**

1. *Children Are Great Receivers* –
2. *Children's Belief/Trust* – If Dad or Mom said it then they will believe it.
3. *Humility* - Children know their limitations. They possess humble dependence knowing that their dependence is upon another.  
**Luke 9:46-48**
4. *Children Express Love* -

### **Application:**

1. Parents have The Awesome Responsibility To Bring Their Children To Jesus. We Bring Them Thru Prayer, Instruction, And Example.
2. Jesus Christ Is The Advocate For Little Children. Before A Child Is Accountable For Their Actions, They Have A Special Position Of Belonging To The Kingdom Of God.
3. Lesson In Discipleship: Children Are Loved By Jesus So We Should Never Hinder Children From Coming To Jesus:
4. In Order For Adults To Enter The Kingdom Of God We Must Learn From Children; Being As A Child And Receiving As A Child.