

Series: What Happens to Babies Who Die?

“Jesus Loves the Little Children” # 1

Matt. 19:13-15

6-10-12 Sun AM

“Jesus Loves Me,” or “Jesus Loves the Little Children.” These are **true Biblical songs** because they are true. We sing these simple songs yet they have great spiritual depth and meaning.

**TT-** This morning I want you to see 3 facts about the relationship between Jesus and children.

### **1. Bringing children to Jesus is our Top Priority [v. 13a].**

The parents were bringing their children to Jesus because they wanted Jesus to **touch and bless their children**.

The Talmud taught Jewish parents to bring their children to respected Rabbis and elders for blessing and prayer. Today we do this in **Parent-child dedications**.

**Ephesians 6:4**, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

We are to rear them up to maturity in the training and instruction in the Lord.

Jesus showed a **tenderness and gentleness** with children. In fact, Jesus used children to show the humility and trust that we adults must have to enter the kingdom.

**Matthew 18:1-4**, “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (2) And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, (3) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

**The Greek word** used here for little children refers to young children from infancy thru toddler age. Luke 18:15 says they were bringing their babies.

### **2. We Should not Hinder Children from Jesus [v. 13b-14a].**

**v. 13b:** The Disciples **resented this intrusion**. The more that came the more they tried to resist.

**Those who love Christ love children.** No church or Christian movement has prospered spiritually that disregards and neglects children.

**This is why we place a premium and priority** in Children’s ministries- Sunday School, Children’s Church, VBS, Mission efforts, or any other ministry for children.

This is why **the hottest parts of hell is reserved for those who abuse, neglect, or kill** children.

**v. 14a:** Jesus understood that children were born with a **sin nature**, yet with **certain innocence**. He knew that their little hearts had a **natural inclination** to do evil.

“Suffer little children and forbid them not” means **let them alone and do not hinder them** from coming to me. From Mark we learn Jesus was indignant [much displeasure] with the disciple’s behavior.

**He was angry because...**

1. He loved children and had compassion on them in this sinful world.
2. He understood the longings and anxieties parents have for children.
3. He was angry at the persistent spiritual dullness and hardness of the disciples.
4. He was angry because they were screening who could come to Him.
5. He was angry because the kingdom of heaven belongs to children “such as these.”

**3. God Has a Special Provision for Children [vv. 14b-15].**

**v. 14b:** “for of such is the kingdom of heaven”

**Let me tell you what Jesus is not doing**- Jesus is not separating the elect and non-elect children. He makes no mention of infant baptism, a special covenant, or personal faith on the part of the children.

For those who have reached **the age when personal saving faith can be exercised**, the kingdom is entered only by divine illumination and faith.

“**such as these**” implies a category of those who because of young age or mental deficiency, are incapable of exercising saving faith, God grants them, in the event of death, entrance into the kingdom by sovereign grace.

**2 Samuel 12:21-23**, “Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. (22) And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? (23) But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

David believed in the life to come...**Psalms 16:10-11**, “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (11) Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

**MacArthur says**, “This does not mean little children are saved and lose it later when they do not come to Christ.

His grace is applied to them if they die before they are able to accept or reject on their own.”

A good verse for the age of accountability is **Isaiah 7:16**, “For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good...”

**BBC says**, “These words of our Lord answer the question, “What happens to children who die before they reach the age of accountability?” Jesus said, “... of such is the kingdom of heaven.” That should be adequate assurance to parents who have suffered the loss of little ones.

**Warren Wiersbe says**, “There is no thought here of baptism or even of salvation. Children who have not reached the age of accountability are surely covered by the death of Christ. Children are born sinners; but if they die before they are accountable, they are regenerated and taken to heaven.

**v. 15:** Jesus laid his hands on them and blessed them.

**Some think** Jesus pronounced his provision and care on their behalf.

**McArthur says**, “Heaven is populated by two kinds of people, those who die as children and those who trust as little children.”

**John Calvin says**, “The passage broadens to give kingdom citizenship to both children and those who come as children.”

**Jesus loves the little children!**