

Children of God

Mark 10:13-16

In 9:33-37 Jesus took a child and used him as an object lesson to say that **the greatest are the least, who serve and associate with the insignificant**

Then in 10:1-12, we have Jesus' many **teaching on divorce and family relations**

Following our passage, we have the story of a young man **who did not receive the kingdom as a child**

What?

Grace calls for no achieving, just childlike, helpless receiving

Back to being a child again—

These parents were prompted to bring their children for a blessing **by Jesus' teaching about family**

The disciples assumed that **Jesus would not want to be bothered with those of such little value**

Jesus was angry because the disciples had not only forgotten their lesson (9:33-37), but **they were acting like the religious leadership, who despised the weak and destitute**

So Jesus goes beyond saying that servants of God should serve and associate with and welcome the weak; He now says that you **have to become like them to enter the kingdom**

The Big Question—In what way are we to become like children to enter the kingdom?

Jesus was not saying to imitate the humility of children or any other inner quality of children

He was saying we should **imitate them in what they lack**

But the humility Jesus refers to is **not an inner quality of the heart, but the outward humble status**

Children are weak, helpless and lack anything that could be considered worthy of offering to God—**no position, no wealth, no ability, no strength, power**

That makes them **able to receive a gift as a gift, with no thought of what they can do to repay**

That **state of total dependence must characterize our faith, to both enter and live in God's kingdom**

The story of the rich young ruler that follows this, is **an example of one who tried and failed to enter the kingdom with his own righteousness and his dependence on wealth**

So What?

This story illustrates the kind of faith required to enter the kingdom and eternal life—**there is nothing you can offer God**

For believers—try spending some time with a child or some children, especially young ones, with the deliberate intention of **observing how helplessly dependent they are**

Then **let that instruct your own faith**

That so goes against our nature as adults, **our determination to help ourselves, to pay our way**

Let a child in your life, a son or daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, **teach you what it means to be a child of God, in total dependence on Him**

The final say—Jesus

Matthew 18:4, ESV—Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven

Now What?

Grace calls for no achieving, just childlike, helpless receiving

Make time to do something with a young child and observe his or her dependence on you

Ask the Holy Spirit to apply that lesson to your faith