

**SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS**

**SUBJECT: ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM**

**SCRIPTURE: MARK 10:13-27**

**SERMON NO. 22**

**Introduction**

Entering the Kingdom of God is not something complicated or difficult to understand. It's when we complicate it that we run into trouble. Some parents brought their children to Jesus, with the request that Jesus "bless them". It was a fairly common practice that when a rabbi came to a remote town, that parents brought their children-usually between the ages of 1 year old and 12 years old-to this rabbi, so he would pronounce some sort of blessing on them for protection and well-being.

The crowds were getting so big that Jesus and the disciples had very little time for privacy, and rest. The disciples thought that something had to give, so they decided that blessing little children was not all that important. So they rebuked the parents and tried to turn them away (13). *But lookt what happened..*

**Mark 10:14-16** When Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for as such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. 16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.

Let me give you just three common characteristics of children, that are very relevant to Jesus' point here on how we enter God's Kingdom.

## **I. THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN.**

**1. Dependency.** From the time they are born, children need us. They need us to hold them; to feed them; to care for them; to change their diapers; to teach them everything from Bible stories, to telling time, to tying their shoes, to getting along with others. And as they grow up, they need us for lunch money, and clothes and money for make-up, and on and on.

Jesus' point is that in order to receive salvation, we have to be dependent. We cannot depend on our selves. Only God can provide what we really need. The fact of the matter is that for anyone of us to have salvation from our sin, we are totally dependant upon God...just like a new born baby is totally dependant on his or her parents for survival.

**2. Uncomplicated.** The lives of children are simple. Kids go right to the heart of a matter. That's why when you pick up a child in your arms, he or she is liable to look at you and say, "How come you have such a big nose?" All of your adult friends have managed to evade that subject for years. But a child will come right out and ask the question. They go right to the point. There is no beating around the bush.

If a baby is uncomfortable because his or her diaper is dirty-that baby will cry until someone changes it. If a child is hungry-he or she wants to eat NOW!

Entry into the Kingdom of God is not something that is terribly complicated.

The Plan of Salvation is so simple that a child can understand it. That's because we're all children in God's eyes. Three steps:

1. Agree with God that you are a sinner who deserves judgment.

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

2. Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and that He rose again. **Romans 10:9-10** If thou confess with thy mouth, the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

3. Ask Him to be the forgiver of your sins and start following Him as the leader of your life. **Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

That is the simple Gospel message. To add anything more to it by means of additional requirements or deeds, or rules, takes away its simplicity and destroys its effectiveness.

**3. Teachable.** There is no time like childhood to learn things. The mind is on this steep growth curve during childhood. It is a time when children can take in a tremendous amount of information and process it and apply it. While some of you are terrified of the beast we call a computer, a Kindergarten student has no problem going to a computer, accessing programs, and interacting with information. That's because kids are teachable and hungry to learn.

And Jesus is saying that this is the way we should be when it comes to entering the Kingdom of God. We need to be teachable. When God's Word says confess your sins, don't let pride get in the way, just admit you did wrong. When God's Word says "obey", don't question it, obey it, you can find out why later on.

**II. DON'T BE LIKE THE RICH GUY. Mark 10:17.** When he had gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

**Look at what Jesus said, Mark 10:18-22** And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God. 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. 20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 21 Then Jesus beholding him, loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Wealth can be a roadblock to entering God's Kingdom. Let me give you three reasons why...

**1. Independent.** Wealth can make us independent of God. Wealth can give us a false sense of security. But it's a false independence. If a person has a lot of things, and financial resources, that person can tend to think that they have the resources to handle any situation that might come up.

A problem with being wealthy is that you can tend to think that you can buy your way out of problems, or into happiness, or out of sorrow. A wealthy person can easily think, "I don't need God, I am quite able to handle life, death, sin, Hell, and heaven on my own terms." That's because great possessions encourage a false independence rather than a childlike dependence on God.

**2. Complicated.** Riches tie a person to this earth and makes it difficult to die. If a person has too big a stake in this earth, then he is very apt to forget that there is a heaven. Wealth complicates things.

**3. Proud.** When you're proud, you cease to be teachable. Wealth is a false security that makes you think you are sufficient to get out of any dilemma by yourself-including your sin, which separates you from God.

**Illustration:** Jesus told a story one time about a rich farmer, who was getting richer and richer with each passing year. He focused his whole life on becoming wealthier, and he was doing it. But one day God visited him and said, "You foolish farmer. All you thought about, all you talked about was tearing down your small barns and building bigger ones. But now it's not going to matter. Tonight you're going to die, and none of the stuff you have on earth is going with you. Now what do you have to let you into eternity? Nothing...absolutely nothing!"

That's the problem with wealth. It can make you so proud of what you do have that you think you don't need a Savior! Ted Turner spoke at Samford University, Christian school before he became so wealthy.

## Conclusion

If a person is so controlled by possessions that he or she thinks that God's rules don't apply to him or her; -or they think that salvation is more complicated than a simple belief and acceptance of Jesus as Savior; -or they are so proud that they can't admit their need for a Savior from their sin... ..then it is impossible for them to enter God's Kingdom.

So how does anyone ever get salvation? Let's face it, we all have the tendency to be proud, complicated and independent. That's why the disciples reacted like they did in **Mark 10:26** **They were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?**

**Mark 10:27** **Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**

God can take the most self-centered, proud, arrogant, unteachable, independent person and make them acutely aware of their need for a Savior, and make them open to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Accepting the good news from Jesus is not anything you or I can make a person do. All we can do is share the simple message. We can't persuade. We can't coerce. We can't cajole. All we can do is share. Then it's up to God-through whom all things are possible-to change a heart.

