

Bring Your Children to Jesus

By Kent Heaton

"Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:13-16).

The Lord was a very busy man. His schedule was exhausting; His work intense and between His teaching, healing, exhorting and traveling it is difficult to see where the Son of God had time to lay His head. In all of this hectic day to day schedule it is overwhelming to see that He had time for children. The disciples did not think He should be bothered. Parents brought their children to Jesus to be blessed by Him and the disciples considered this as frivolous for such a man as their Master. Imagine the scene of these children being led to Jesus and people rebuking their parents for wasting the Lord's time. How disheartening that would have been to a mother and father who only sought the blessing of this kind man who blessed everyone. The disciples did not think children were important enough to bother Jesus. They had it in their minds what Jesus would do and what He needed and they took charge of the problem. "Go home and do not bother the Lord," they may have said. Jesus would not have it. Instead He rebuked His own disciples and was greatly displeased with them. The text suggests that Jesus was moved with indignation or became angry with His disciples.

Jesus is God, creator of the world and savior of men – and He wants to spend time with children. Little children are brought to Him and He takes them in His arms (can you see that) and He blesses each and every one of them. He laid His hands on them. The hearts of the mothers and fathers must have been bursting at the seams. Jesus uses the moment to remind His misguided disciples that children represent the character of the kingdom. They are humble, kind and full of love. Such are those who will be in the kingdom of God. It was a power point moment of instruction for those who did not see the value of children being blessed by the Lord. The parents were thrilled because He took time for them. Another lesson Jesus taught that day was to remind parents how important it is to bring children to God. Casting aside the rebukes of the disciples, the children were blessed when Jesus took them in His arms.

Parents must bring their children to Christ. They will not come on their own. The families in this story knew the value of bringing their children to the Lord to receive a blessing from Him. So often in the Lord's church today parents see no purpose in bringing their children to Bible class or worship. One of the great blessings we have is the opportunity to have classes for children throughout the week. This has not always been the case in the centuries since the church began. Because of transportation, facilities and time, there are more opportunities to teach the Bible than ever before – and we are doing less with our time. Many parents in the church today will not bring their children to Bible class. To them it is not important. Bringing them to worship service is even more sporadic. If they bring them on Sunday morning they will not bring them on Sunday night or Wednesday night. When a special series of lessons are being conducted they will not bring their children. If the church is engaged in a work to encourage the young people parents do not see the value. Why should they grieve when their children grow up and have no interest in God? They learned that from mom and dad.

We teach our children what is important. The Bible classes are a wonderful addition to help a child learn about the Bible. Gathering with the saints on the first day of the week is not an option but a command. Parents who seldom attend worship services are teaching their children God is not important and they will grow up without God and die without God. This is only systemic of what happens in the home: there is no teaching of God in the home. It must be remembered that Bible classes are an addition to a child's spiritual growth, not the totality. Children learn to love the Lord when they see that and hear that in the home the other six days of the week. Sending a child to Bible class alone will not teach them to love God. Why would a parent refuse to bring their child to Christ? They do not teach them in the home, they do not bring them to Bible class and they attend services so little the children are bored to tears with God.

Jesus wants us to bring our children to Him! Parents need to wake up and understand the eternal consequence of not bringing their children to the Lord. If a parent is not bringing their children to the Lord they are taking them to Satan. The parents in the days of Jesus wanted Him to bless them and He did. Nothing is of more lasting value than bringing our children to Jesus. It is heartbreaking when parents wring their hands in grief over their children who leave the Lord and refuse to obey the gospel when the blame is squarely upon the shoulders of those same parents who refused to set an example of faithfulness in bringing their family to God. Parents listen to the word of God – you will reap what you sow!

Mental Garbage Disposal

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

“In describing one of the new movies of the day, a critic wrote, 'The plot moves rapidly down the sewer.' It would not be so damaging to those who watch such trash if the mind could be equipped, like your kitchen sink, with a garbage disposal. Then, you could flush away all the filth and be done with it, but the mind does not work that way. It stores up impressions for a lifetime. The only way to protect the mind is to expose it to only the BEST!” (From Bible Illustrator)

Certainly, if one is so inclined, there is mountain of garbage he can focus his mind on today, not only by means of television and the movies, but through books, magazines, and the Internet. Let us, in obedience to Christ, think on the holy, righteous, spiritual things.

A Moments Wisdom

- No one so thoroughly appreciates the value of constructive criticism than the one who gives it.
- When one takes things for granted, he often gets taken for plenty.
- You will remain in darkness if you shut your eyes.
- It seems that people who know the least often know it the loudest.
- If you are too busy to feel miserable, you will soon feel happy.
- Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.
- Most people will agree with you if you keep silent.
- Better is a little kindness done every day than an extravagant display at the grave.
- There is no such thing as a little white lie; every lie is as black as a coal pit and as foul as a cesspool.
- When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing.
- It is difficult to realize that the person who does not take your advice may not be stubborn.
- Sowing seeds of kindness produces a perpetual harvest.
- Some people would rather be wrong than be quiet.
- The kindness we resolve to do tomorrow relieves no hardship today.
- Kind words do not wear out the tongue.