

THE LORD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Lesson: Mark 10:13-16

The Lord is our Heavenly Father. He is the Heavenly Father of all men, women, and children. We acknowledge this when we pray, “Our Father, who art in the heavens....”

And the Lord wants everyone to come to Him—children, even babies, as well as grown people. When He was on earth, the Lord told the disciples not to stop children from coming to Him. And when they came, He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

When the Lord was on earth, people could see Him, and He could take babies up in His arms. Now it seems safe to say that His disciples loved children too. Some of them had wives and children of their own. But because they loved the Lord very much, they tried to protect Him, and to keep Him from being bothered by the many, many people who were curious to see Him and who crowded around Him.

Some people were only curious to see the Lord. Others wanted to be made well and whole by Him, for they had heard that He could heal people. The Lord gave the blind sight, and the deaf, hearing. He cured lepers, enabled the lame to walk. He even restored life to some who had died, including Lazarus who had been buried four days. Among those whom the Lord healed were many children and babies, for their mothers brought them to Him to be healed and blessed.

And so it was, when people heard that the Lord was coming, many hurried out of their houses to see Him, and to hear His wise words, to be blessed and to be healed. But as the streets in the villages and cities were very narrow, the people were crowded together, and they also pushed up close to the Lord so that they touched Him. This troubled the disciples who feared that the Lord might get hurt. They also worried about whether He was strong enough to do all of the things asked of Him. They did not know that He was really the Lord Himself, our Heavenly Father, who has all power in heaven and on earth.

Most of us love to touch things we like and to be close to the people we love. And we also love to be touched by people we love and who love us. This is why mothers brought their children to the Lord so that He might touch them. Some of the children were sick, and their mothers hoped the Lord would make them well by touching them. Other mothers probably just wanted Him to touch their babies, believing that His touch would be a blessing and help their children to grow into good men and women.

So when the disciples tried to stop the mothers from bringing their children to the Lord, He said, "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."

When the Lord, had said these wonderful words, the children were allowed to come to Him. One by one He took them up in His arms, put His hands gently on their little heads, and blessed them.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Amen.