

**“Of Such Is the Kingdom of Heaven”**  
**Matthew 19:13-15**

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*How Jesus views our covenant children.*

**1. The Proper Desire of Loving Parents** **v. 13a**

- This was happening repeatedly!** *“Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray...”*  
- cf. Mk. 10  
- Also with *very young* children - infants! cf. Lk. 18:15

**- Why would they do such a thing?**

- They had seen His works and power displayed
- They anticipated that He would indeed bless the children

**- What were they seeking?**

- The laying on of His hands and His blessing in prayer
- An established and well-known gesture

**2. The Disciples’ Misplaced Zeal** *“...but the disciples rebuked them.”* **v. 13b**

- They believed they were protecting and promoting Jesus’ interests.
- They thought they were honoring Him in His office and ministry.

**3. Jesus’ Instructive Actions** **vv. 14-15**

- (1) Toward the Disciples: Rebuke and Instruction** *“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’”*

**-1- Jesus gives command**

- He is indignant! cf. Mk. 10:14 “He was greatly displeased”
- He declares that He *wants* to receive children – little children – infants!

**-2- Jesus gives explanation**

*“for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”*

**\*Children are welcomed and received! They have a part in the kingdom of heaven!**

- The children of believers have a standing in the covenant of grace (1 Cor. 7:20)
- Jesus delights to receive and bless the least, the weakest!
- Jesus delights to bless and work in our children!

**\*Their place is *central* – central to the interests and priorities of the kingdom**

**\*What we see exemplified in them provides an ongoing pattern for kingdom living.**

- “child-like faith” - To receive as a child; to believe as a child

- cf. // Mk. 10:15 “Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

**(2) Toward the Parents and Children: Blessing!** *“He laid His hands on them...”*

- cf. // Lk. “And He took them up in his arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”  
Lit: “He repeatedly blessed them”

**- The laying on of hands by Jesus – not an insignificant or empty sign!**

**- The blessing of Jesus Christ – not an empty blessing!**

**Further Application**