

Sermon Reflections

Jesus' Focus on the Family (Part 2) (Matthew 19:1-15)

Summary: Christ elevates singleness and children, as choice models for kingdom living. Be single-minded in your devotion. Be humbly dependent like a child.

1. Embrace a Single-minded Devotion (vv. 10-12)

- Jesus answered the Pharisee's question about divorce. (vv. 4-9) How could the disciples arrive at the conclusion to say "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry?" (v. 10) What does that reveal about their heart? (v. 8)
- The disciples said, "...it is better not to marry." How did Jesus' response actually address their comment? (vv. 11-12) If the topic is marriage and divorce, why did Jesus talk about eunuchs?
- What does "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" speak of? (v. 12)
- What does Jesus mean when He says, "Not everyone is able to receive this, but only those to whom it is given" and "Let the one who is able to receive this receive it?"
- In what ways does being married/single hinder one from serving God? In what ways can being married/single be helpful to ministry?
- In what ways does your marriage or singleness help you in the ministry opportunities God has set before you in the season of life you are in?

2. Emulate a Child-like Dependence (vv. 13-15)

- Why did the disciples "rebuke" the parents who brought their children to Jesus? (v. 13) What does Jesus' response to them reveal about himself, his ministry, his intended audience? In Mark 10:14, we are told that Jesus was "indignant" with the disciples when they "rebuked" those who brought children to Jesus. How does this help us understand His response in Matt 19:14 when He says "let the children come to me and not hinder them"? How about you? In what ways do you take time for those who are marginalized in culture?
- In what ways might you hinder some from coming to Christ? What are ways you can bring others to Christ?
- What does Psalm 127:3-5 tell us about how God values children? In view of Eph 6:4, in what ways can you exasperate your children? In what ways can we effectively bring our children up "in the fear and instruction of the Lord"? What are ways you can "bring your children to Christ" to be "touched by Him"? What resources do you have to help you do so?
- In light of this, have you considered how you might be used of God to assist in the ministry to children at Grace Bible Church? In what ways can you help?
- What does Jesus mean when He says "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"? (Matt 19:14b)
- In Matt 18:4 Jesus says, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Would those around you take notice of your humility? How can the Lord use that to draw others to Himself? Is it clearly evident that your life before others harmonizes with the faith you profess? In what ways do you demonstrate that you need God?