

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK
“FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN”
Mark 9: 1-50

I. CHILDREN NEED TO DISCOVER THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST

[14] And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. [15] Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. [16] And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" [17] Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. [18] And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." [19] He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." [20] Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. [21] So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. [22] And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." [23] Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." [24] Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" [25] When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" [26] Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." [27] But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. [28] And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" [29] So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

- A. Ask the Lord for wisdom about your child's behavior (v. 16-18)
- B. Not every disciple is equipped for difficult ministry (v. 18)
- C. God shows His power when we exercise faith!
 - a. Ask God to show you how to increase your trust in Him (v.24)
- D. Prayer (and Fasting) are critical in spiritual warfare (v. 29)

II. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMILITY

[30] Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. [31] For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." [32] But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

[33] Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" [34] But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest. [35] And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." [36] Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, [37] "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

- A. Pride and selfishness keeps us from asking the right questions (v. 30-34)
- B. Encourage the desire for greatness through God's method. SERVANTHOOD!
- C. The way we treat children reflects our love for Christ

III. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TURN CHILDREN AWAY FROM JESUS

[38] Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us." [39] But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. [40] "For he who is not against us is on our side. [41] For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

[42] "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. [43] If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- [44] where

'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' [45] And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-- [46] where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' [47] And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire-- [48] where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.' [49] "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. [50] Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."

- A. Don't put down other believers in the presence of children or the unsaved
- B. Eternal damnation is forever. Don't lead anyone astray
- C. Carefully examine your own life so you can remain effective for Christ.

CHILDREN ARE GOD'S FUTURE LEADERS. WILL YOU HELP TRAIN THEM?

*Pastor Ronald J. Morrison
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