

## JOY in the JOURNEY VI



### “Are They That Important?” - Mark 10:13-16

**Sermon Idea:** *We experience the joy of the Kingdom by embracing the transparent, unpretentious honesty of little children for ourselves and likewise, by generously valuing the ‘nobody specials’ who God readily loves and desires to know him intimately.*

**Intro:** One sign that we likely pay more attention to on our streets has blinking yellow lights – SCHOOL ZONE. With many children spending school days at home during the pandemic perhaps there ought to be blinking yellow lights in front of many homes. We might discover in today’s study whether it was Jesus who instituted the blinking yellow lights. Who has highest priority in Jesus eyes?

#### **Read and discuss Mark 10:13-16; Luke 17:1-2; Matt. 25:37-40**

1. What is most startling about the interaction between Jesus and the children? What are clues to his real interest in them?
2. In contrast, what is surprising about the disciples’ reaction and then the strength of Jesus’ rebuttal? Are there other instances in the Gospels where Jesus corrects the disciples? (even later in this chapter).
3. What are ways to interpret Jesus’ words: “...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these...”?
4. How important to Jesus is the way we treat children, how we influence the young? What about his harsh words in Luke 17:2. (See also Eph. 6:4 on parenting.)
5. What are some of horrific sins against children in the world today? Trafficking? Abuse and anger? Family separations at the border?
6. Are you satisfied that the church in general, and ours specifically are pleasing Jesus with how we welcome and affirm children? Are there ways we might improve?
7. Is Jesus looking for our actions towards the “nobody specials” as signs of us being his holy kingdom people? Matthew 25:37-40. Should we take this literally or is Jesus just giving suggestions? Who might Jesus list in our world today?
8. We usually think of getting into His kingdom as passing some formula or belief test. Can we really believe that our actions towards children, the marginal, and poor are actually what Jesus is looking for? Is this works salvation?
9. How will obeying Christ in these ways bring us JOY(“blessed”) in the Journey.

Spend some moments praying for the hurting “little ones/nobody specials” in the world, and praising and thanking God for our children in HWC and our families.

***Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5.***