

Child Dedication

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart Deuteronomy 6:6 NKJV

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up Deuteronomy 6:7 NKJV

But Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven Matthew 19:14 NKJV

Context: This verse occurs in the narrative where parents bring children to Jesus for blessing Matthew 19:13–15

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them Matthew 19:13 NKJV

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 19:14 NKJV

And He laid His hands on them and departed from there Matthew 19:14 NKJV

The disciples rebuke them, assuming Jesus has more “important” work

But Jesus corrects them, highlighting the value of children and their place in God’s kingdom

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus not only welcomes the children but points out that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who come with humility and dependence

Just as a child comes to a parent

When we place this verse alongside the surrounding passages

His teaching on marriage 19:1–12 and the encounter with the rich young ruler 19:16–30

A unified theme emerges: the kingdom is not earned through status, wealth, or strength, entered through surrender and trust

God’s design for life in His kingdom is rooted in humility, dependence, and simple faith

But Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven Matthew 19:14 NKJV

“Let the little children” (ἄφετε τὰ παιδία)

aphete means “let, allow, permit, release, do not hinder.” It carries urgency and authority

paidia refers to very young children, even infants

Jesus’ welcome is not just to older, teachable kids but to the smallest and most dependent

“Come to Me” (ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με)

An invitation of access. Children, often marginalized in the ancient world, are given direct access to Christ without precondition

It parallels Matthew 11:28 where Jesus says, “Come to Me, all you who labor”

“Do not forbid them” (μὴ κωλύετε αὐτά)

A stern prohibition. The disciples had set up barriers; Jesus commands the opposite

This reflects God’s heart against any stumbling block placed before “little ones” Matthew 18:6

“For of such is the kingdom of heaven” (τῶν γὰρ τοιούτων ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν)

“of such” doesn’t mean only children enter the kingdom, but that the kingdom belongs to those who share childlike qualities

Which are humility, trust, and dependence

Reinforces Matthew 18:3–4: unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them Matthew 18:2 NKJV

and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven Matthew 18:3 NKJV

Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven Matthew 18:4 NKJV

God’s heart for children

Faith Like a Child

Children are dependent, trusting, and humble, qualities necessary for salvation

Salvation is not earned through power, knowledge, or wealth (contrast with rich young ruler, **19:16–30**), but received in childlike trust

Access to Jesus

No human-made barrier should prevent children from coming to Christ

This is a rebuke to the disciples and a **timeless warning against churches or traditions that obstruct access to the Savior**