

September 21

Matthew 19:13-15 (NIV) ¹³ Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”** ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

We had scheduled a cleanup day at the church on a Saturday. When I arrived, I saw that a hard-working group had already arrived and were busy on various projects. I visited for a while before going outside to use the weed eater. When I returned to the church, I was greeted by a very young lady, the daughter of one of the men who had come. She greeted me with a box of sidewalk chalk in her hands and excitedly asked me to go outside with her so she could play with the chalk. I responded that I had work to do. That made no impression on her as she continued to plead with me to play with her. At that time, I imagined the others, who were working diligently, looking outside and seeing me playing with her and the chalk. What would I say if they asked, “What are you doing?” Immediately, I heard the Lord answer for me, “Sitting at my feet.”

That answer brought a smile to my face and helped me see what was truly important. Yes, there were other things that needed to be done, just as there were when Jesus was surrounded by the people. The disciples saw the small children as interrupting what was important. Jesus lovingly corrected the disciples, pointing out that the children, because of their innocence, were truly what was important. By the time all of that went through my mind, my little friend had already run off to find other pursuits. However, later, as I was cleaning my office, she stood at the door and said, “David, you can’t catch me.” This time, I stopped what I was doing and engaged in my first game of tag in years (in the church). Hearing her laugh was a blessing I had almost missed. Afterwards, I finished cleaning the office. Yes, the church needed cleaned, but the best part of anything we do is sitting at the feet of Jesus. Sometimes, that means taking the time to play tag with a child who understands the Kingdom better than I do.