

Mark 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

Analysis

People 'brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them' (προσέφερον αὐτῷ παιδία ἵνα αὐτῶν ἀψηταί· οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ ἐπετίμων τοῖς προσφέρουσιν). Parents sought Jesus' blessing on children—common practice with respected rabbis. The disciples rebuked them, likely viewing children as unworthy of Jesus' time or as interruptions to 'important' ministry. This reveals misplaced priorities—valuing 'significant' people and activities over humble service. Jesus' response (v. 14-16) corrects this, modeling God's heart for children and the seemingly insignificant. The disciples' error warns against elitism in ministry—dismissing those deemed unimportant while pursuing impressive results. True greatness serves the lowly (Mark 9:35).

Historical Context

Ancient Greco-Roman culture generally devalued children—they had no legal rights, couldn't contribute economically, and high infant mortality made emotional distance common. Rabbinic Judaism valued children as future Torah students but prioritized adults' instruction. The disciples' rebuke reflects cultural values—why waste Jesus' time on children when crowds pressed for teaching and healing? Jesus radically countered cultural norms, consistently welcoming children (Mark 9:36-37), using them as spiritual models (Mark 10:14-15), and warning against harming them (Mark 9:42). Early church developed robust theology of children's value, opposing infanticide and abandonment common in Greco-Roman world. This

became Christian cultural contribution—recognizing children's intrinsic worth as image-bearers.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the disciples' rebuke of those bringing children reveal our tendency to prioritize 'important' ministry over serving the humble?
2. What does parents' desire for Jesus to bless their children teach about recognizing spiritual needs beyond merely physical or educational?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ προσφέρουσιν αὐτῶν· παιδία ἵνα ἄψηται
And **they brought** **them** **young children** **that** **he should touch**
G2532 G4374 G846 G3813 G2443 G680

αὐτῶν· οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ ἐπετίμων τοῖς προσφέρουσιν
them **and** **his disciples** **rebuked** **they brought**
G846 G3588 G1161 G3101 G2008 G4374