

# 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

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People 'brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them' (προσέφερον αὐτῷ παιδία ἵνα αὐτῶν ἄψηται· 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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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Καὶ	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	G3588	and	his disciples	rebuked	G3588	they brought
G846	G1161	G3101	G2008			G4374

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