

Mark 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Analysis

Verily I say unto you Whosoever shall not receive kingdom of God as little child shall not enter therein. Verily amēn solemn affirmation. Receive dexētai welcome accept. Kingdom of God basileia. As hōs in manner of. Little child paidion young child. Shall not enter eiselthē access. Therein eis autēn into it. Requirements for kingdom entrance. Must receive like child humble dependent trusting. Cannot earn merit achieve. Must receive as gift. Pride self-sufficiency obstacles. Reformed theology emphasizes salvation is gift by grace through faith. Monergism God alone effects salvation. Synergism human cooperation heresy. Must receive passively not achieve actively.

Historical Context

Childlike receiving contrasts with adult achieving. Children depend receive cannot provide for themselves. Kingdom is gift received not wage earned. Paul Ephesians 2:8-9 gift of God not works. Roman Catholic view faith plus works equals salvation. Protestant view faith alone (which produces works as fruit). Childlike humility recognizes inability need. Pharisees trusted own righteousness (Luke 18:9). Tax collector cried for mercy saved. Modern self-help prosperity gospel contradicts this. Cannot earn merit deserve save self. Must humbly receive what Christ offers.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does receiving kingdom as little child teach about passivity in salvation versus human effort?
2. How does childlike humility dependence contrast with modern self-sufficient self-help approaches?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅς ἐὰν μὴ δέξηται τὴν
Verily I say unto you Whosoever G1437 G3361 receive G3588
G281 G3004 G5213 G3739 G1209

βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ ὡς παιδίον οὐ μὴ εἰσέλθῃ εἰς
the kingdom of God as a little child G3756 G3361 enter G1519
G932 G2316 G5613 G3813 G1525

αὐτήν
therein
G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 18:3 (Kingdom): And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 18:17 (Kingdom): Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.