Are You Ready for Kids Kingdom?

**Mark 10:13-16**

The Gospel is good news, but its central principles contradict the values of modern culture. We first see this in Matthew 5, where Jesus said: “Blessed (or happy) are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful, the pure, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted. Do not resist an evil person. Give to the one who asks you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you.” Who besides Jesus would ever give advice like that?

The world teaches that success and access come to the mature, the prepared, the educated, the strong. To belong, to get in, to be appreciated, you need to have these qualifications... But the kingdom Jesus came to inaugurate is not like that. He taught his followers that unless they received the kingdom like little children, they could not enter.

Since that is our prime desire, to be sure that we will enter the eternal kingdom, we need make certain that we understand this teaching. Ponder these verses:

Mark 9:36-37 “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and welcomes the one who sent me (the Father)”

Psalm 127:3 “Children are a heritage (reward) from the Lord”

Matthew 18:6 “If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea”

Hope-work >

Read today’s passage, and examine your life with these questions:

1) How can we “let the little children come to Jesus”?

2) In what ways might we be “hindering them”?

3) How do we express to children that “the kingdom of God belongs to them”?

4) How can we “receive the kingdom of God like a little child”?

5) Do we (youth/adults) really believe that “the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (children)”?

6) How can we follow Jesus’ example and bless children?