

## KEEPING LITTLE CHILDREN FROM JESUS

Matthew 10:14

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Parents were always trying to get their children to Jesus for His blessings and because of the crowds, it was sometimes very hard to do. On one occasion Jesus' disciples interfered with parents trying to get their children to Jesus and when Jesus saw what they were doing, He was very displeased and said, *"...Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for such is the kingdom of God..."*

Jesus was not only displeased, but very much displeased with His disciples for discouraging little children from approaching Him. Jesus is much displeased with all who, in any way, prevent or discourage little children from approaching Him, even today.

### I. WHO ARE GUILTY OF PREVENTING/DISOURAGING CHILDREN FROM COMING TO JESUS?

1. There are those who have never come to Jesus themselves yet openly identify with Jesus' authority.
  - Children imitate others for they come into the world ignorant and helpless, naturally looking to others for guidance, example and instruction.
  - If children grow up seeing their parents obeying Jesus' commands and hear His name mentioned in reverence, they will in later years choose Jesus also.
  - If children grow up seeing their parents disobeying Jesus' commands, hearing His name only in words of profanity, they will in later years act the same.
  - Every person who does not come to Jesus and publicly profess obedience to His authority and lives in a Godly manner, helps to increase the number of unbelievers and strengthen the force of an evil example.
  - Every person in this room exerts to some degree influence by his/her example on the minds of children.
  - Parents, of all people, influence their children more than anyone else and if they neglect to come to Jesus themselves, will tend to prevent or discourage their children from approaching Jesus.
  
2. There are those who do not come to Jesus, whose example is only negative and bad.
  - There are those who practice wrong principles, are open in their wicked practices.
  - There is the open infidel who publicly denies any divine authority.
  - There is the conceited infidel who ridicules and try to explain away Biblical doctrines, etc.
  - There is the scoffer or swearer who curses, uses profanity, thus teaching the same to children.
  - There are those who dishonor God's sacred day, Sunday, by ignoring the true meaning of it.
  - There is the liar and slanderer who teach children to not tell the truth and to mock others.
  - There is the addict who is a slave to drugs, alcohol, sensuality, leading children to do the same.
  - It is doubly bad of such a person is a parent.
  
3. There are those who educate their children for the world but not for the next.
  - Parents choose to teach their children how to get along in this world, to value certain things and to neglect, despise or consider worthless.
  - *"...Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it..."*
    - Children are taught and educated more about the things of the world than they are about the world to come and therefore teaching that religion is of little consequence.

- Parents who educate their children for this world and not for the next, are preventing their children from ever coming to Jesus.
  - If parents would take half the pains or display half the concern to educate their children for God that they do for the world, more children would be coming to Jesus.
  - If a parent is unwilling or unable to instruct his/her child/children themselves about the things of God, they he/she ought to help those who are willing to do it for them.
4. There are parents who encourage a spirit of revenge on their infant children by teaching them to strike some object which may have accidentally hurt them.
- Such parents are teaching their children to be envious and ambitious, humoring and indulging them in such a manner as to cause them to be short tempered and discontented when grown, to render their wills unmanageable, stubborn and perverse.
  - Children under such upbringing will grow up regarding others with disrespect or contempt.

## **II. WHY JESUS IS SO DISPLEASED WITH SUCH PERSONS AS THESE JUST DESCRIBED**

1. Those who prevent children from coming to Him display an attitude which He greatly dislikes.
  - Jesus' object in coming into this world, the object of all His labors, of His sufferings and death was to seek and to save those who are lost.
  - Jesus is pleased with any who have a similar attitude of promoting the salvation of sinners but He is displeased with those whose attitude is opposite of His won and exhibit no love or compassion for those who are perishing in their sins, having no desire to bring them to Him for salvation.
  - Jesus is even more displeased with those who discourage or prevent any from coming to Him.
2. Jesus is displeased with those who prevent or discourage children from coming to Him because they are frustrating that which He is most deeply interested.
  - It is Jesus' will that not one of these little ones should perish.
    - It is Jesus' will that all come to him.
  - To oppose the accomplishment of people coming to Him, is opposing His will.
  - Nothing displeases Jesus so much as attempts to oppose or hinder people from coming to Him.
3. Jesus is angry with those who prevent children from coming to Him because it tends to rob Him of a part of His reward.
  - His reward consists in the pleasure of saving sinners.
  - No praises are more sweet to Jesus than those which grace produces from the lips of babes.
  - Those who prevent or discourage children from coming to Him, deprive Jesus of this pleasure, rob Him of a part of His reward and brings His displeasure.
4. Jesus is displeased with those who are guilty of preventing children from coming to Him because it is evidence of a disregard and contempt of those blessings which He died to purchase.
  - Temporal prosperity and the favor of the world to most people and the attitude that if their children can succeed in the world, nobody cares what becomes of them afterwards.
  - Jesus is evidently displeased with what He sees in our world today.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Are YOU guilty, either directly or indirectly, by your own example, conduct or language, of discouraging children from coming to the Lord Jesus or preventing others from bringing children to Jesus?
  - He that is not with Christ is against Him.
  - Your example must be either good or bad, for Jesus or against Jesus, encourages children to come to Jesus or discourages children from coming to Jesus.
  
2. Parents, there is an awful responsibility that you are entrusted with and that is that your children come to know the Lord Jesus.
  - You have the charge of immortal souls, souls which the Lord Jesus values more than anything else on this earth.
  - Do you have children who are now walking the way that they should go?
  - An impenitent, unbelieving parent cannot bring up his/her children as he/she ought for he/she is not bringing up his/her children in the ways of the Lord.
  
3. Parent, become a real disciple of Jesus, not only for your own salvation, but for that of your children as well. If you love your children, then bring them with you to the Lord Jesus Christ.