

REPENTANCE

Preparing for Revival and Resurrection



Mark 10

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them.

Mark 10

¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

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¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

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¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Repenting of Our Grown-Upness

Repentance?

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If you don't . . . then you won't”

Matt. 18

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Run Up to Mark 10

- Mark 9.1-13 – Transfiguration

Run Up to Mark 10

- Mark 9.1-13 – Transfiguration
- Mark 9.14-29 Rejoins other disciples

Mark 9.14-29

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law *arguing with them*.

Mark 9.14-29

¹⁶ “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

Mark 9.14-29

¹⁹ “. . . Bring the boy to me.”

²⁰ So they brought him.

Run Up to Mark 10

- Mark 9.1-13 – Transfiguration
- Mark 9.14-29 - Rejoins other disciples
- Mark 9.30-37 - Jesus predicts his own death and connects welcoming him to welcoming a child (.36).

Mark 9.30-37

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Mark 9.30-37

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Run Up to Mark 10

- Mark 9.1-13 – Transfiguration
- Mark 9.14-29 - Rejoins other disciples
- Mark 9.30-37 - Jesus predicts his own death and connects welcoming him to welcoming a child (.36).
- Mark 9.38-39 - Disciples stop someone from driving out demons in Jesus' name

Mark 9.38

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

Mark 9.38

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. . . . ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us.”

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- Mark 9.14-29 - Rejoins other disciples
- Mark 9.30-37 - Jesus predicts his own death and connects welcoming him to welcoming a child (.36).
- Mark 9.38-39 - Disciples stop someone from driving out demons in Jesus' name
- Mark 9.42-50 – Jesus warns against causing one of the “little ones” to stumble

Mark 9.42-50

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.”

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What have the Disciples Been Doing?

- Failed to bring a boy they couldn't help.
- Argued about who was the greatest.
- Stopped someone from ministering in Jesus name
- Stopped people from having their children ministered to by Jesus.

Mark 10

He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Repenting from Grown-Upness

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As part of our repentance,
we must ask, how are we like the disciples,
creating obstacles to people coming to
Jesus?

Repenting from Grown-Upness

We must repent of being certain of
(presuming/assuming) what God is saying or
doing in someone else's life.

“I am persuaded that love and humility are the highest attainments in the school of Christ and the brightest evidences that He is indeed our Master.”

- John Newton

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Repenting from Grown-Upness

What does it mean to receive
the kingdom as a child?

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the kingdom as a child?

Receiving

“It is not only more blessed to give than to receive, it’s also a whole lot easier.”

Frederick Buechner

Receiving

“I think we understand very well that it’s more blessed to give than to receive. We understand that it’s easier too.

A giver has power. A giver has options. A giver may choose to dispense grace or withhold it, almost like God.”

Alvin Plantinga

Receiving

- We don't like to feel out of control.
- We don't like to feel obliged.

Repenting from Grown-Upness

What does it mean to receive
the kingdom as a child?

Children in the 1st Century

Joel Green

First-century children were lowly because they had nothing to give. They didn't produce anything. They didn't contribute anything to village life. Infants can't build a barn or dig a well. They just lie around all day. All they produce is an occasional pants full, and the village can't do much with that.

Children in Mark's Gospel

Children in Mark's Gospel

- Daughter who die (5.35)
- Daughter who is demon possessed (7.25)
- A son seized by a spirit (9.17)
- Children who are servants (9.35)
- Children who are rejected (10.13)
- Children who are betrayed (13.12)
- Children who betray parents (13.12).

Receiving as a Child

- We don't like to feel out of control.
- We don't like to feel obliged.
- We don't like to be dependent, never mind completely helpless.
- Receiving the kingdom is about receiving a gift. The appropriate response is gratitude.

Repenting from Grown-Upness

To receive the kingdom as one who has no claim, as a beggar with empty hands.

Repenting from Grown-Upness

To receive the kingdom as one who has no claim, as a beggar with empty hands.

All we bring is full pants.

Mark 10

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How does Jesus deal with kids?

- Welcomes (let them come .14)
- Embraces (takes them in his arms .16)
- Blesses (.16)

Repenting from Grown-Upness

To receive the kingdom as a child is to live in the full acceptance, the full welcome, the full blessing of Jesus.

Repenting from Grown-Upness

- Repent from the ways you create obstacles to other coming to Jesus.

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- Repent of the lack of humility that allows us to assume we know what God is up to.

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Repenting from Grown-Upness

- Repent from the ways you create obstacles to other coming to Jesus.
- Repent of the lack of humility that allows us to assume we know what God is up to.
- Repent of not receiving the kingdom as a gift
- Repent of not receiving as a child
- Repent of doubting his love, acceptance, and blessing

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