**Let the Children Come**

***15****Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.****16****But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.****17****Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” (Luke 18:15-17, ESV)*

We are only able to receive God’s Kingdom when our spiritual attitude is like that of a child. Welcome to all of you on this “Back to School” Sunday as we rejoice in seeing our kids and grandchildren present in these blessed halls. Today, I chose an important passage out of the Gospel of Luke which shows us the vision of God’s Kingdom. We can comfortably say that God views the world in a specific way. To have certain specific viewpoints and approaches to life are important for Him (for us to follow and emulate). So, to know the Lord’s heart on certain matters, we need to take a look at the above passage, focusing on Jesus’ words specifically. Therefore, we’re going to talk about receiving the Kingdom of God by having God’s vision for life. Again, we can only receive God’s Kingdom when we have a childlike attitude about life. Let’s move to our analysis:

If we want to receive God’s Kingdom within ourselves and then also enter it upon our death, our world view needs to connect become one with God’s worldview. Question: why are Jesus’ words important? The answer is that they show us what God considers important or not. Within the passage, Luke the Evangelist remembers the time when parents had begun to understand Jesus’ value and act accordingly. They had begun to bring their infants and children to Him. In the passage, according to Luke, they were bringing infants according to the Greek, whereas in the same parallel passage in Mark’s Gospel, the word for “children” was used. The point being made here is that from the birth of a child, people wanted to bring their kids closer to Jesus.

There was an issue, however, that came about in this episode: Jesus’ own disciples manifested it. The problem was that kids in those days had no value in society. Children were considered unimportant and inconsequential, weak, and always in danger of becoming gravely sick and dying. There was not much honor in being a kid back then in most circles. Children were also completely reliant on their parents for all their needs. They were incapable of doing any work to help their families. Their lot was to love and be loved. They were called to grow. They were called to be born and to mature. For adults, however, they didn’t have any social value, and it was strange within that culture for someone like Jesus, with the reputation that He had, to consider these “little ones” important, who were nothing more than future-adults for most of society.

It is exactly the above calling that Jesus modeled that is before us today. We already said that the weakest of society were also the most reliant and dependent on God for their health and well-being. The youngest of society needed the most love. The humblest and the ones incapable of contributing significantly were the ones that needed to be lifted up and cared for the most. For Jesus, the “little ones” had the highest place of honor in His book. In the same way, those that help the weak, who support the marginalized and ignored by society and help the helpless to find Christ are considered those who by virtue of their spiritual maturity receive the Kingdom of God in this life and look forward to entering it finally after their earthly journey is over.

If we stop for a moment, we can say that sometimes, our greatest enemies or adversaries in our school years often become best friends when they become adults. Often the most disturbed or upset students, when they are loved and not abandoned, begin to learn, to feel accepted, and to build new and healthy habits in their lives.

God is inviting us today to approach God with a childlike faith in this journey of life. God has given all of us a path – we can either walk while trusting Him and leaning on His power, or we can try to make do with our weak and limited minds. Which one is better? Should we trust God as a child trusts a parent, should we trust Him who is our Heavenly Parent? Or should we make our own path, and think that we know better about life than our Heavenly Father?

Therefore, let our children, who innocently seek love, and let us also, approach Jesus as children – so that we can receive The Kingdom in this life and at last enter it after we’re done with our life-journey.

May the Lord Bless you. Amen.