

Sermon Outline: 7.20.25

Sermon Title: **“As A Little Child”**

Sermon Text: Mark 10:13-16

(Mark 10:13-16)

“As a Little Child”

The Concern of the Caregivers

“They brought... that He should touch”

(Acts 4:12)

The Censure of the Disciples

“His disciples rebuked those that brought”

(Insert attached Barna research, by paragraph)

(Isaiah 45:22) (Matthew 18:5-6, 10)

The Indignation of the Savior

“When Jesus saw it, He was much displeased”

(Matthew 18:7)

The Acceptance of the Children

“For of such is the Kingdom of God”

(Matthew 18:4)

The Offering of the Kingdom

“Whosoever shall not receive... shall not enter”

(1st Corinthians 2:5)

The Joy of the Savior’s Response

“He took them up... and blessed”

(John 6:37)

(Hebrews 7:25)

(Barna research... used small font just to keep on one page... I assume you copy/paste.)

Barna’s research: A person’s lifelong behaviors and views are generally developed when they are young – particularly before they reach the teenage years. As evidence of this, Barna provided research that showed four critical outcomes:

- 1) a person’s moral foundations are generally in place by the time they reach age nine...and their fundamental perspectives on truth, integrity, meaning, justice, morality, and ethics are formed;
- 2) a person’s response to the meaning and personal value of Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection is usually determined before a person reaches eighteen...with a majority of Americans make a lasting determination about the personal significance of Christ’s death and resurrection by age twelve;
- 3) data indicates that in most cases people’s spiritual beliefs are irrevocably formed when they are pre-teens, including perceptions of the nature of God, the existence of Satan, the reliability of the Bible, perceptions regarding the after-life, the holiness of Jesus Christ, the means of gaining God’s favor, and the influence of spiritual forces in a person’s life (*“In essence, what you believe by the time you are 13 is what you will die believing.”*);
- 4) the research revealed that adult church leaders usually have serious involvement in church life and training when they are young, with statistics gathered by Barna’s firm among a national sample of pastors, church staff and lay leaders showing that more than four out of five of those leaders had consistently been involved in the ministry to children for an extended period of years prior to age thirteen.

Churches experiencing great influence in children’s lives were motivated by the realization that children are of special significance to God. The research showed that at a typical Protestant church, more than four out of every ten people ministered to during the week are children, yet seven out of every eight ministry dollars are spent on adults. Barna was quick to point out, though, that simply spending money on children does not produce great results.

“The most important resource, we believe, was the amazing amount of prayer for children and parents that was evident at the most effective ministries to children. Some money is required to see serious life change happen, but the more important resource is the commitment of adults to the spiritual wholeness of the children – which means sacrificing some of the emphasis upon the ministry to adults.”