

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw, this he was upset. [indignant]

1. That term in the Greek means to have deep emotional pain.
2. It's the only time that word is used in the N.T.

I. WE ARE CALLED TO BRING YOUTH TO KNOW AND BE BLESSED BY JESUS.

Catch these stats.

85% of Christians began their relationship with Jesus before age 14. *Barna Group*

After preaching a revival, D.L. Moody said that there were two and a half conversions.

Someone asked, "Two adults and one child?"

Moody replied, "No. Two children and one adult.

The Children gave their whole lives. The adult only had half to give."

Matthew 18:1-6

II. WHY SHOULD WE INVEST OURSELVES IN A STRONG YOUTH MINISTRY?

1. They need the saving power of God in their lives.
2. They need a strong faith to face the pressures of this world.
3. They need the love of Christ.

WHEN WE INVEST IN YOUTH,
WE ARE INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

III. WE NEED TO MODEL THE LIFE OF A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST FOR THEM.

1. We adults need to take the claims of Christ on our lives seriously.
2. We need to be devoted and passionate.
3. We need to be deep in the Word.
4. We need to be serious about prayer.
5. We need to have "follower of Christ" be our primary identity.

Mark 9:33-37

IV. WE MUST ENCOURAGE THE LIFE OF A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST IN THEM.

Look at the OPPORTUNITY GOD HAS GIFTED US WITH!!

We want our youth to become the adult leaders of tomorrow.

But we also want them to serve their God today.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves.

V. IT'S ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD! **Mark 10:15**

Have you sought the kingdom of God with the simple but trusting faith of a little child?

Jesus waits with open arms to accept you and bless you-

just like He did for these young people 2,000 years ago.