

May 25, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced the children and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

MARK 10:13-16

Reflection

Apparently people around Jesus recognized that he valued those in their society who were held up as having very little value. Children were considered worthless because they couldn't contribute to society. They were not "innocent"; rather, they were vulnerable. Yet people were bringing them to

Jesus for blessing. His disciples, however, tried to stop them. Jesus was incensed because they were interfering with the expression of his love.

Entering God's kingdom is equivalent to enjoying God's patronage. Jesus holds up children as the ideal members of God's kingdom and is teaching his disciples to reevaluate powerlessness. In God's eyes, it is the opposite of the usual consideration that "weak" implies "worthless." Notice how Jesus responds to the children: placing his hands on them, he embraced them and blessed them. He declares the "worthless ones" as being of immense value, belonging in God's generous presence.



Boy Running During Sunset
Photo by Jonas Mohamadi

For Pondering

- What does this reflection say to you about yourself?
 - A difficult question: Who do you consider worthless? How might that person/ those persons become valuable to you?
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For Prayer

*When I am confronted
with baseness and evil,
let all the bad
fall away before me.
Let all the good and Godliness
that lies hidden
within everyone I meet
shine forth
and emerge
as a grand reflection
of beauty and light.*

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