

## Mark 10 • “Let the Children Come to Me”

Mark 10:13 And they were bringing **children** to him that **he might touch them**, and the **disciples rebuked them**.

Luke 18:15 Now they were bringing even **infants** to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

“Some animals come into this world more self-sufficient than others. Many can fend for themselves without any parental supervision almost immediately — picture baby sea turtles hatching on the sand and then somehow finding their way to the ocean.

Other animals, like newborn giraffe calves, are able to clamber upright and walk around on their own within hours of birth.

Human babies, however, are a different story.

For the first two months of life, they can't lift their heads without help. They usually roll over for the first time at about 4 months, and sit up at around 6 months. They usually start standing at about 9 months, and take their first tentative steps at around 1 year old.

But even then, babies are just getting started. Fine-tuning the most basic survival skills, such as walking and feeding themselves, takes at least another year or more, and the little ones generally remain dependent on parents or caregivers for well over a decade before they're even able to begin to navigate parts of the world on their own.”

“The first few months with a newborn baby are terrifying — we're a horribly **designed** species. Our babies are born with soft spots on their heads, necks so fragile that they can die if they aren't supported, and tiny fingers they can't even use. **Evolution** was kinder to other animals. Reptiles, for example, don't even need to take care of their babies. When a lizard gives birth, it expects its one-day-old child to go out on its own, fend for itself, and stop coming to it with every little problem. Their babies can already walk and hunt. Ours can't even see.”

## **The value of infants in the Roman empire:**

**Infanticide** became a capital offense in Roman law in 374 AD, but offenders were rarely if ever prosecuted.

Prior to 374 AD, it was traditional for a newborn to be brought to the *pater familias*, the family patriarch, who would then decide whether the child was to be kept and raised, or left to die by exposure. Babies would often be rejected if they were illegitimate, unhealthy or deformed, the wrong sex, or too great a burden on the family.

Exposure was the preferred method of disposal, as that act in itself was not considered to be murder; moreover, the exposed child technically had a chance of being rescued by the gods or any passersby.

Mark 10:14 But when **Jesus saw it, he was indignant** and said to them, “**Let the children come to me; do not hinder them**, for to such **belongs the kingdom of God.**”

*The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who come as little children.*

Mark 10:15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not **receive the kingdom** of God **like a child shall not enter it.**”

*If you do not receive the kingdom of like an infant child then you shall not enter it.*

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**”

Mark 10:16 And **he took them in his arms** and **blessed them**, laying his **hands on them.**

Mark 10:17 And as **he was setting out on his journey**, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “**Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?**”

Mark 10:18 And Jesus said to him, “**Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.**”

Romans 3:10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your **righteousness exceeds** that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the **kingdom of heaven.**

*It takes excessive righteousness to enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Mark 10:19 **You know the commandments:** ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, **Honor your father and mother.**’”

Mark 10:20 And he said to him, “[*Good*] **Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.**”

Romans 3:20 For by **works of the law no human being will be justified** in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

“what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Mark 10:21 And **Jesus**, looking at him, **loved him**, and said to him, “**You lack one thing:** go, **sell** all that you have and **give** to the **poor**, and you will have **treasure in heaven**; and come, **follow me.**”

Mark 10:22 Disheartened by the saying, **he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.**

Mark 10:23 And Jesus looked around and **said to his disciples**, “How **difficult** it will be **for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!**”

*It is difficult to enter the kingdom of God with wealth.*

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were **amazed** at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “**Children**, how difficult it is to **enter the kingdom of God!**”

*Children, It is difficult to enter the kingdom of God.*

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to **enter the kingdom of God.**

Mark 10:26 And they were **exceedingly astonished**, and said to him, **“Then who can be saved?”**

Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, **“With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”**

*With man it is impossible to be saved. It is only possible to be saved by God.*

Mark 10:28 Peter began to say to him, **“See, we have left everything and followed you.”**

*Careful here: Cause and effect. Salvation is not given because you leave everything but rather you choose to leave everything because you have found your treasure.*

Matthew 13:44 “The **kingdom of heaven** is like **treasure** hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. **Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

Mark 10:29 Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, **for my sake and for the gospel,**

Mark 10:30 who will not receive a hundredfold **now in this time**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, **with persecutions**, and **in the age to come eternal life.**

*Wealth will not get you into heaven but treasure will: “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and **give to the poor**, and you will have **treasure in heaven**; and come, **follow me.**” Jesus is the Treasure!*

Mark 10:17 And as **he was setting out on his journey...**

Mark 10:32 And they were on the road, **going up to Jerusalem**, and **Jesus was walking ahead of them**. And they were **amazed**, and **those who followed were afraid**. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them **what was to happen to him**,

Mark 10:33 saying, “See, **we are going up to Jerusalem**, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will **condemn him to death** and deliver him over to the Gentiles.

Mark 10:34 And they will **mock him** and **spit on him**, and **flog him** and **kill him**. And after three days **he will rise.**”

Ezekiel 16:3 and say, Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

Ezekiel 16:4 And as for your birth, **on the day you were born** your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.

Ezekiel 16:5 **No eye pitied you**, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, **but you were cast out on the open field**, for **you were abhorred, on the day that you were born**.

Ezekiel 16:6 “And **when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood**, **I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’** I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’

2Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, that though **he was rich**, yet **for your sake he became poor**, so that **you by his poverty might become rich**.