



“And He Took the Children in His Arms”

Blessings, not Curses

The Bible passage this morning is...

Mark 10.13-16

(A resource I heavily relied upon for this sermon is Gary Smalley and John Trent. The Blessing (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986.)

1. JESUS ADVOCATED FOR CHILDREN.

“Big people must speak for little people.”

2. JESUS WAS PRESENT WITH CHILDREN.

We must carve out PHYSICAL, TEMPORAL and EMOTIONAL space for children.

3. JESUS BLESSES THE CHILDREN.

We do not convey our blessing because our culture has no formal way to do this and because we may not have received it ourselves.

How do you know if you have received your parent(s)' blessing?

If we miss the blessing we seek to fill our lives with LESSER things.

Without the blessing children may grow to become adults who may be...

- **SEEKERS**—“Always searching for intimacy but seldom able to tolerate it.”
- **SHATTERED**—in every way—emotionally and relationally unstable.
- **SMOTHERERS**—empty themselves, they drain others in an attempt to be filled.
- **ANGRY**—anger at a pain they can't quite identify.
- **DETACHED**—having lost the blessing once, they spend a lifetime protecting themselves from ever losing it again. You can't lose what you don't have.
- **DRIVEN**—they go after the missing blessing the

old-fashioned way—they try to earn it.

- **SEDUCED**—looking for lost love in all the wrong places. They seek to meet legitimate needs in illegitimate ways.

We only know how to pour out to those around us the very things that have been poured into our lives, especially in our growing up years.

If you missed your parent's blessing God is ready to bestow his blessing upon you through Jesus Christ: “*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*”

Ephesians 1:3

In giving our blessing to our children consider that:

- In the culture of the Bible they had specific ways to give the blessing—traditions, rituals, rites of passages. We don't have these today, but we can build the blessing for our children into their daily lives.

- The blessings we give should be specific to each child (Jacob).
- Equal distribution of the blessing is important—no favoritism!
- Distribution of blessings through the stages of a child's life is important. We must love the same child equally even as that child changes over time.

The family blessing consists of:

- meaningful touch
- a spoken message that...
- attaches high value to the one being blessed...
- a picture of a special future for the one being blessed, and...
- an active commitment to fulfill the blessing.

[Compiled and adapted from The Blessing and other sources]