

Sermon Series: **“Close Encounters of the Divine Kind”**

The Ticket to Heaven: When Children Encountered Jesus

Text: Mark 10:13-16 (Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17)

Introduction: *Jesus Christ was a very busy man. Some parents wanted Jesus to touch their children and bless them. But, finding time when they wouldn't be bothering Jesus would be difficult. There were two important things these children received when they encountered Jesus:*

I. _____ “do not hinder the children from coming to me”
We're pretty hard on children in America today. About 1.3 million are killed by abortion every year. About one in four girls under the age of 18 has been sexually abused by a family member or friend. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the major reason for mental disabilities amongst children born in America. A survey of school teachers found that 89% said that abuse and neglect in the home were a major problem in trying to educate kids.

Many wanted to touch Jesus, knowing that doing so would totally change their lives (Matt 15:36; Mark 6:56; 3:10; 8:22; Luke 6:19)

Matthew 18:1-9; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48

Psalms 127:3 “Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from Him.”

II. _____ “for the kingdom belongs to such as these”
Acts 9:26-28; 13:13&14; 16:36-40; Colossians 4:10
I Timothy 4:12; II Timothy 1:3; 2:1
Philemon 8-16

Conclusion: Luke 6:38