



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 115 - Why Would Jesus Be Interested in Children? (Mark 10)

Jesus and Children (verses 13-16)

Are you curious what adults in Jesus' day thought of children? Just look at the disciples' response when mothers brought their children to Jesus.

- Which group(s) of people do you consider the "children" of today who remain outside of our society's (or even our congregation's) focus?
- What are some ways your congregation can make these "children" feel more welcome?

Jesus spoke of the simple, trusting, child-like faith we all must have to be saved.

- Compare a child's simple trust to an adult's mistrust. Where does that mistrust come from?
- Think back on a huge obstacle you had to face in the past. How did God help you get past that obstacle?
- What Bible passages do you find most helpful when you are anxious about your life?

The church must always maintain a tension between meeting people's spiritual needs (through God's Word and the Sacraments) and showing Christ's concern for temporal needs (physical, emotional and financial).

- Describe what happens when the Church focuses on one of these two emphases and ignores the other.

Rich Young Man (verses 17-31)

Before we can be right with God through faith in Jesus, we have to realize our sin makes us wrong before Him.

- Why do we tend to excuse our faults and shift the blame to others instead of accepting responsibility for our own sins?
- How does taking responsibility for our sins actually empower us?
- What are some ways you battle temptations to pride and overconfidence?

Jesus made it clear that it is impossible for any of us to win heaven by our own efforts.

- What message was Jesus trying to get across when He said, "No one is good but God alone"?
- Why is it vital to realize it is totally impossible for us to earn heaven on our own?

The rich, young man thought he had kept all the Commandments faithfully. Read Jesus' application of the Fifth Commandment in Matthew 5:21-22: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."

- How does this passage show us it is impossible to do what God demands in His Commandments?

Jesus said it was hard for anyone to get to heaven.

- In what sense is it difficult for God to give us eternal life as a gift?

Each time Jesus predicted His suffering, He gave more details than the time before.

- Identify the seven details of His suffering that Jesus revealed in verses Mark 10:33-34: "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. And they will mock Him and spit on Him, and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise."
- Why do you think Jesus went into such detail?
- Why is it important to God that we act as servants to each other?

Blindness (verses 35-52)

In Mark's account, Jesus' three predictions of His coming passion are sandwiched between two miracles in which He gives sight to the blind.

- What are some ways our spiritual blindness shows itself in our lives?
- What questions can you ask yourself to determine if you are relying on your own efforts to get yourself into heaven?
- How does this talk of blindness reinforce Jesus' warning that unless we have the faith of a child we will never enter heaven?