



LENT DEVOTIONAL

Return to Childlike Faith

Mark 10:13–16

Mark tells us that crowds were bringing their children to Jesus—hoping He would simply place His hands on them and bless them. The disciples tried to stop it, but Jesus would not allow anything or anyone to hinder those little ones from coming close. He even became indignant at the idea.

Then He said something that shapes our understanding of faith to this very day:

“Let the little children come to Me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these... anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

— *Mark 10:13–16*

Just before this moment, Jesus had been teaching crowds in Judea (Mark 10:1).

Perhaps this was a season of preparation on His way toward the cross—a time when every word mattered. And in the middle of all that teaching, Jesus pauses to highlight children—the most vulnerable then, and often still today.

He draws our attention to them not because they are cute or small, but because **they show us what real faith looks like.**

A Lenten Reflection

As we walk toward Easter, Jesus gives us a simple—but life-shaping—instruction:

Return to Me with the heart of a child.

Children don't bring résumés.

They don't try to impress.

They come with **trust, dependence, honesty, and open hearts.**

During Lent, Jesus invites us to put down the heavy armor of self-reliance and rediscover the joy of being embraced by Him again—simply and sincerely.

What Jesus Shows Us in This Moment

1. Jesus Welcomes the Weary and the Small

The disciples thought Jesus had more “important” work to do.

But Jesus refused to let anyone stand between Him and the ones coming to Him.

He still welcomes us that way today.

Lent reminds us to come close again—without pretense, without performance.

2. Jesus Teaches Us the Way into the Kingdom

Childlike faith is not immaturity.

It is humility.

It is choosing:

- **trust over self-confidence**
- **dependence over performance**
- **wonder over cynicism**
- **surrender over control**

During these forty days, we return again and again to the simple confession:

“Lord, I need You.”

3. Jesus Longs to Bless His People

The same Savior who gathered those children into His arms still reaches for you.
He still draws near.
He still blesses the ones who come to Him with open hands and honest hearts.

Lent is not only about giving something up.
It is just as much about **receiving**:

- His presence
- His mercy
- His joy
- His healing

A 40-Day Call to Childlike Faith

Consider practicing these simple rhythms as you walk toward Easter:

• Childlike Trust

Begin each day with:
“**Jesus, I trust You today.**”

• Childlike Dependence

Let prayer interrupt your day—often.

• Childlike Wonder

Open Scripture slowly.
Let familiar passages speak to you again.

• Childlike Humility

Serve someone quietly this week.
Let no one know but the Lord.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I grown “spiritually grown up” in unhealthy ways—guarded, busy, or skeptical?
2. What would it look like for me to come to Jesus with the honesty of a child?
3. What barrier in my heart keeps me from receiving the blessing Jesus wants to give?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, draw my heart back to You. Strip away pride, hurry, and self-dependence. Teach me again the beauty of childlike faith. As I walk these forty days toward Your cross and resurrection, make my heart soft, open, and surrendered. Let me come to You freely—and receive all that You desire to give. Amen.