



Let the Children Come - When Insiders Get in the Way
Sermon Discussion Questions - May 9, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Matthew 19:14 (The Message) But Jesus intervened: “Let the children alone, don’t prevent them from coming to me. God’s kingdom is made up of people like these.”

Mark 11:15-17 (NLT) When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

Luke 13:10-17 (NLT) One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, he saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!” Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!

(15) But the Lord replied, “You hypocrites! Each of you works on the Sabbath day! Don’t you untie your ox or your donkey from its stall on the Sabbath and lead it out for water! This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn’t it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath!” This shamed his enemies, but all the people rejoiced at the wonderful things he did.

Hebrews 10:11-12 (NLT) Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.

Luke 8:47-48 (NLT) ...The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. “Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

Warm Up:

Happy Mother’s Day! What are some of your favorite memories of your mother or being a mother?

Discussion:

1) This week we kicked off a new series called “Let the Children Come.” This series will touch on people who matter to Jesus and things that made Jesus angry.

What types of people or groups of people do you think of today that matter to Jesus? What types of things do you think would make Jesus angry and why?

2) Read Matthew 19:14 and Mark 11:15-17.

What common threads do you see in these two passages? Who does Jesus value or prioritize in these scriptures? Who does Jesus confront?

3) Looking back at Mark 11:15-17, what can you learn about the character of God through this passage?

4) Pastor Tom walked us through the cultural context in Jesus’ day surrounding the passage in Mark 11 (the Tabernacle). He describes God’s anger in that moment as a result of *the religious people keeping the people who needed God from experiencing the presence of God, His love, His grace and His mercy*. He goes on to say, “*The religious people in the inside are keeping non-religious people on the outside.*”

What are some things today that may keep religious people on the inside and non-religious people on the outside? What might Jesus confront if he walked into a place of worship today?

5) Read Luke 13:10-17.

What does this passage teach us about Jesus’ view of rules and personal relationships? How might understanding Jesus’ response impact the way we see or practice religious rules today?

6) Pastor Tom described two pitfalls of every Christian—legalism and lawlessness/license. How do both of these pitfalls play a role in keeping us from Jesus? How might they keep outsiders out and insiders in?

7) Pastor Tom said, “*if we are going to become like Jesus, it will mean we model Jesus in life and sacrifice.*” Pastor Tom defined sacrifice as giving something we love up for something we love more.

What might it look like to model Jesus in life and sacrifice? What are some examples of things we might be willing to sacrifice? And who are some people we would want to make sacrifices for?

In his message, Pastor Tom told multiple stories of Jesus sacrificing for people in moments of direct opposition from the religious people around him. He was inviting those on the outside, inside.

Can you think of some ways that churches, individuals, or even you have invited someone on the outside, inside? Can you remember being on the outside? If so, who invited you in?

Next Steps:

Toward the end of his message, Pastor Tom made this statement: *In this moment, we can receive the sacrifice of Jesus and become the sacrifice of Jesus.*

What might it mean to receive the sacrifice of Jesus? And what one or two areas might you be able to come a sacrifice of Jesus this week?

Take some time to pray as a group for Jesus to deepen your understanding of his sacrifice.