

Title:

Saved like a baby

Introduction

Children:

Do you know the books of the Bible, 1st 10 books?

Do you know what the bible is all about?

Tell me children, what do you know about babies?

Can Babies feed themselves?

What can babies do?

So were you babies yourselves?

How is it that you have grown up to this age

How is it possible that you survived?

Who fed you , protected you, looked after you?

Lessen in that for us today

To come into Gods kingdom , you and I need to become like babies, in which we trust in God, to rescue us, save us.

WE need to know that we can do nothing. You must trust in Christ.

TY

I cannot tell you how many times I have had conversations with people claiming to be Christians.

When you ask them the basis for salvation, they answer that it is by their **good deeds, good works, good character that they are saved.**

You naturally think **you need to perform**, to do some work, to **keep Gods commandments** so as **to be saved** or to **your maintain salvation.**

Nagging thoughts that have plagued me at times include: I believe the facts of the Gospel, I have embraced them, and I am committed to Jesus am I trusting in Christ alone.

But when I am plagued with my own sinfulness, there comes times of doubt, or questions in my mind like: was I truly saved.

The reason is because my **behaviour is contrary** to the **manner of life of a believer** and I am not depending totally upon Jesus, I also do not think about my own **inability** to save myself.

John writes

¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 1 John 2:19 (ESV)

A proof that some were never originally saved was that they had left the fellowship of the believers.

Some friends of mine, in their student days were **fully committed to** Jesus, yet now in their later part of life, come over as **distant and aloof to** God.

Some of their marriages **ended up in divorce.**

Some left Christianity all together and I know of a pastor's son who embraced Buddhism, even after having been baptized as a believer.

And its only natural to wonder if they truly were saved.

God only knows their hearts; you and I only see what goes on outwardly.

But with that reality, its so easy to think that we are saved by some way of living, by some religious practices, by some good deeds instead of repenting and totally trusting upon Christ completed work on the cross.

Our passage this morning addresses a fundamental truth.

Salvation is by Grace alone, faith alone in Christ alone.

It is not by your or my works.

It's not maintained by your or my works.

This is a work of God.

So how are you saved?

How should you enter the kingdom of God?

Our passage addresses that this morning.

Reading

Mark 10:13-16

Proposition statement

4 Truths spell out the requirements to be saved

1. Not by human choice
2. The way is by trust
3. Enter by trust
4. Jesus welcomes those who trust

1. Not by human choice

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. Mark 10:13 (ESV)

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them,

Jesus had taught on the **importance of marriage** (10:1-12) and now focus shifts to the children.(10:13-16)

Jewish parents commonly would bring their children to the local synagogue to the rabbis so they would pronounce a blessing upon them.

The OT records the fathers blessing their children:

- Gen 9:27-27 Noah pronounced a blessing upon His sons.

²⁶ He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant." Genesis 9:26–27 (ESV)

- Gen 27 :1-41 Isaac
- Gen 49:28 Jacob

²⁸ *All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.*

Genesis 49:28 (ESV)

Jesus also demonstrated **great affection** for the children.

So Parents often would bring their children to Jesus.

The term used here for children is the **common term for children**.

But Luke, the parallel passage uses **a Greek term** which refers **to unborn children, new born children or older infants**.

¹⁵ *Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them...*

Luke 18:15 (ESV)

Parents had brought their **helpless babies to Jesus** so that He might touch them, by laying his hands upon them and by implication bless them.

The fact that the parents and children are unknown emphasize that their status.

They were not anyone special, normal parents like you and I.

The grammar indicates they were trying to reach Jesus but were unsuccessful.

The reason they were unsuccessful because the Disciples were hindering them.

and the disciples rebuked them. Mark 10:13 (ESV)

The term rebuke means to express strong disapproval, to censure or to seriously warn to prevent and action.

It's the same term used when Jesus rebuked the demons in Mr 1:25, 3:12 and the storm in 4:39

Their rebuking/reproving were preventing the parents and kids from gaining access to Christ.

The disciples had already forgotten the lesson Jesus had taught them in Mrk 9:37.

³⁷ *“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.” Mark 9:37 (ESV)*

The disciples had displayed exclusivism and elitism towards the independent exorcist in Mark 9:38 and some of that was still evident in their behaviour.

They were abusing their authority.

They determined who had access to meet with Christ and who not.

They had become the gate keepers, not only to who may use the name of Jesus to minister (Mrk9:38-39), but also who has access to Christ.

Principle

You do not determine based on your authority who gets to Jesus and who does not.

A good illustration of this is seen in salvation.

Salvation originated **not** on you deciding for God and God honouring that decision but on Gods original choice of you.

Before you even existed in this world.

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

Application

1. You cannot determine or decide who comes to Jesus and who does not. You do not have that authority.
2. No man can claim the right to bar access to Jesus.
3. Even if you make a decision for Jesus, its only because the father has already worked in your life.
4. As a parent/grandparent you should not hinder Children from access to Christ.
 - a. This is done when you are not faithful in sharing God's word with them
 - b. When you do not disciple your children
 - c. When you are not intentional in making sure your children have the basic foundations needed to understand the gospel.
 - d. Are you bringing them up in the discipline and instructions of the Lord?(Eph 6:4)

2. The way is by trust

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Mark 10:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them,

Jesus responded to the disciple's zealous rebuke of the parents by becoming indignant and He addressed His disciples.

Indignant = GK from pain or grief, to be grieved, or resentful.

To be angry against what is assumed wrong.

He also commanded them not to forbid or hinder them.

We see Christ's righteous anger come to the surface as he confronts His disciples (those who set themselves as gatekeepers to hinder access to Him).

It reveals His compassionate heart as He comes in defence of the helpless, the vulnerable in society.

Not only does Christ show compassion, care, concern and even rights for women in a patriarchal dominant society, but also for the defenceless children.

But I believe it's more than that.

Jesus highlighted a theological principle critical for salvation.

for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Mark 10:14 (ESV)

The reason or the cause that babies should be permitted to come to Jesus and not be forbidden is because **too such** as these babies belongs the kingdom (the reigning realm of God/the sphere of salvation)

To such /of the type previously mentioned/ like babies.

Here we see that Jesus is not so much focussing on the babies, but **those who share the status of a baby.**

It is too such as these that the kingdom belongs.

People who are **like these babies**

He is talking about the characteristics or the quality of these babies.

Babies:

- Are helpless to save themselves
- They cannot feed themselves; they cannot clean themselves
- They need to depend totally upon another.
- They need to trust/ have faith in another, namely their parents.

The kingdom of God belongs to those who know that **they cannot save themselves**, who understands their **own inability, and therefore** depend totally upon another, namely Jesus Christ.

Application

1. The world is divided in two kingdoms, the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.
2. Those in Satan's kingdom **depend upon themselves, their own abilities**, their own knowledge.
They try to save themselves though their own works.
3. Do you think that you can do enough good works to save yourself?
4. Do you think that God will look at you and say, wow, what a privilege it is to welcome you into My kingdom.
5. You are **deeply mistaken**.
6. It is only when you know your own total inability, like any new born baby unable to fend for itself, that you come to the point of trusting upon Gods provision for salvation.

²⁰ For **by works of the law no human being** will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20 (ESV)

⁵ he saved us, not **because of works done by us in righteousness**, but **according to his own** mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:5–6 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

3. Enter by trust

¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Mark 10:15 (ESV)

Key truths here:

- Jesus makes a solemn declaration
- He describes who the person is that might enter into the Kingdom of God
- IT is the one who might receive the kingdom of God as a child, or like a child.

¹⁵ Truly, I say to you,

Here we see Jesus basically states: this is a solemn declaration:

- I tell you the truth,
- I promise you
- I guarantee the truth
- I solemnly declare to you

What follows is the declaration, but it also describes what kind of Person might enter the kingdom of God.

whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child

What does it mean to **receive**?

It means :

- Something is given and not achieved
- Something is obtained, not labored for
- Not by your labor, you intellect, your accolades
- Not your good works, not your so called mercy shown to others
- Delivered to you as a gift
- To receive it knowing that you have not earned it
- Its obtained by grace

The **way** it should be received is **compared with a child.**

Like a baby

- Here the children are not commended **for their virtues**(like humility), but for their lack of virtues.
- They are **small, powerless often** overlooked in society
- Babies and infants are **helpless**
- They cannot **claim their rights**
- They cannot **bring anything** to the table.
- They cannot save themselves
- They are dependent upon the grace, love and care of their parents.
- They need to trust upon their parents.

(Rock of ages)

Not the labor of my hands

*Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
...Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:*

That **what might be received** is described as the kingdom of God

- The rule and authority of God
- His spiritual realm of salvation
- Where Jesus is king, you are His willing subject
- To receive Jesus as ruler and Lord

shall not enter it.” Mark 10:15 (ESV)

The person that **shall not enter** the kingdom of God is the person who:

1. Does **not receive the kingdom of God as a baby**
2. He or she comes thinking they can enter because:
 - a. They are **so good**
 - b. They have **done some good works**
 - c. They have earned it **though their own righteous acts** or religious activities

You must come to the point of understanding your own **helplessness as a baby** to save yourself.

You will **never – never reach** God's standards of perfection

Only Jesus did.

That's why you enter in to His kingdom as you depend upon Jesus having died on the cross for your sins and risen again.

Based on **His righteous acts.**

His **perfect obedience**, His **perfect righteousness** is credited to your account when you trust upon Him totally.

Application

1. Believers, when you sin, **do you think that you have stopped being** a Christian.
 - a. This indicates a heart still thinking that your salvation was **dependent upon your obedience to God and not what Christ has done.**

- b. Stop doing that. Rather remind yourself that Jesus has accomplished forgiveness for you. Confess your sin, repent of it, but know that it has been forgiven. Pursue the manner of life consistent with who you are in Christ.
2. To the unbeliever here this morning:
- a. Stop trusting in your own abilities, your own good works
 - b. Stop thinking you will get to Jesus and enter His kingdom if you just do some religious ritual, say something, do some good deed.
 - c. Rather come knowing how:
 - i. helpless you are
 - ii. Sinful you are
 - d. Pray and ask Jesus to give you faith to believe
 - e. Then, rely totally upon Him, trust upon him...believe in Him

Titus 3:3–8 (ESV)

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

4. Jesus welcomes those who trust

¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. *Mark 10:16 (ESV)*

Jesus blessed them.

How: By essentially hugging the babies and placing his hands on them.

The significance of laying of hands is simply a sign of association, used often in Jesus' healing ministry 1:41, 5:23, 6:5 but also a traditional symbol of blessing. Gen 48:14-48

Here we see the compassionate loving side of Christ for babies and children.

He does not see them as a nuisance.

He **goes against the grain and identifies with the powerless**, the little ones.

He does not banish them or dismiss them.

He **loves and blesses** them.

We know from other passages that Jesus invites everyone to come to Him.

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28–29 (ESV)

We also know that the Believer is blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Those who have come to repentance and faith in Christ will be blessed by Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love Ephesians 1:3–4 (ESV)

BY application:

Those who come to Jesus, like a **child, in total dependence upon Him**, those who trust in **Him, He welcomes and blesses.**

This passage does **not justify infant baptism** as some has used this passage for.

There is no mention of baptism here.

Some use this text to teach that **all babies will be saved** if they were to die.

I do believe this to be true, but I think this passage is making a comparison with babies more than teaching about where babies go when they die.

I would more inclined to go to passages like 2 Sam 12:22-23, Rom 5, Ps 139, Eph 1:3-4 etc.

I think the main thrust on the **passage emphasizes how you are to be saved**, how you are to enter the kingdom of God.

You need to realize your **own inability, your own helplessness and therefore** depend totally or trust totally upon Christ for that to be a reality.

Mark 10:13-16 emphasizes **your helplessness to enter the Kingdom** of God and thus emphasizes your dependence upon Christ.

Mark 10:17-31 in contrast reveals a **man who wants to obtain eternal life**(the kingdom of God) through **his religious efforts**.

Jesus confronts this man and states the governing principle for this text.

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” Mark 10:27 (ESV)

The disciples of Jesus needed to rid themselves from the idea that they could inherit the kingdom of God through their **religious efforts or their good** deeds.

They had grown up in a religious system that taught or implied that you could earn your **salvation or obtain it by keeping the law and the traditions** of the Father.

This passage is not **only about Babies**, **being hindered and then permitted** to come to Jesus.

The term **“such”** points out to me that **Jesus is making a comparison**, that the marks readers then and you and I **today should take note** of.

Your salvation **depend upon this critical point**.

Jesus uses the **practical situation of parents bringing their babies to** Him, to illustrate that you are **helpless and unable** to save yourself.

That’s why you should trust in Him.

Marks readers, Christians facing persecution and often death, would find encouragement to depend **totally upon Christ**, not only for salvation but also for their **walk with Christ**.

They would have found encouragement also in the fact that **Jesus welcomed the Babies** and pronounced blessings upon them.

Even if they were to lose their own babies due to persecution, one thing was clear from this passage.

Jesus had a special love for little ones.

Just as babies are helpless to save themselves

So is every human being.

IT takes an infinite God doing divine surgery : removing the blindfold of the evil one and giving saving faith to save a person.

*¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to pay attention** to what was said by Paul. Acts 16:14 (ESV)*

*⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” **has shone in our***

hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36:26–27 (ESV)

You and I are like babies helpless, unable to do anything to save ourselves.

So stop trying to

Look to Jesus, trust totally upon Him

And anyone coming to Him, repenting and trusting in him, will not be cast out, but will be blessed by Him.

What are you waiting for?

Application

1. You and I need to come to understand that you and you too are helpless, just like babies to save ourselves.
2. The Bible depicts you and I rather as enemies of God and persons that run from God.
3. You and I want to be the master our own salvation.
4. You should:
 - a. Come to Jesus
 - b. Acknowledge your own helplessness, your own incapability to save yourself.
 - c. Depend totally upon Jesus.
 - d. Stop trying through your religious efforts to try to obtain salvation or even maintain it.
 - e. Look to Jesus, trust in Him, have faith in what He has done on the cross for your and my sins.
5. To you children this morning. Know that Jesus loves you, and he too is calling you to come to Him as a baby.
6. Come to Him trusting in Him alone to save you.
7. Come knowing that you can never, never be good enough.
8. Jesus has made a way,
 - a. He died on the cross for you
 - b. He rose again

c. Repent and believe for the forgiveness of sins.

Amen

Conclusions

4 Truths spell out the requirements to be saved

1. Not by human choice
2. The way is by trusting in Christ
3. Enter by trust, a child like dependence upon God to give you repentance, faith, access to His kingdom
4. Jesus welcomes those who trust in Him totally and blesses them, by implication with all spiritual blessings.