

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Season of Lent
Day 31

Matthew 19:13–15

¹³ Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

¹⁴ Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵ When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Reflection

If you’re not sure just how upside down the kingdom of God is, this story should clear it up. This and tomorrow’s passage: “Let the children come, the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these . . . it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.” Somehow having nothing and being nobody is a prerequisite to entering the kingdom.

This is why the gospel is such good news for the poor; when you have nothing and then are offered everything, you respond positively. On the other hand, when you have much and you’re asked to let it go, you may not be able to take the risk.

Again, this is the value of a Lenten rhythm. Not only does it keep us focused on the gospel story, but it invites us to consider what remains in the way of our entry into the kingdom. Where have the temptation to power, wealth, sex, and spirituality taken root? Once again we can repent and release those things as Christ’s life in us transforms us.

One cannot become a child again, but one can become poor like a child; the kingdom belongs to such as these.

Prayer

Lord, help us to hear this word. Allow us to trust in you, giving up our own security and reputation for your kingdom. Make us as free as children to enter into your life. Amen.