

Mark 10: 13-16

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Meditation: What is it about children that makes them so special to Jesus? Children are no more virtuous than adults, that's for sure. But they are more transparent, honest and trusting, with fewer hang-ups and pretenses to protect themselves. This is also why they are more vulnerable to hurt. But for Jesus, they are also more immediately receptive to love and more open to who he is, regardless of their limited capacity to understand his mission. Unless our disposition as adults is like that of children, we can never allow God to get that close to us. We hold too much to ourselves, put on a facade and pretend. It is too risky to open everything up and surrender it all in trust to God.

And this is even more so the case when outside pressures or challenges further push us into false ways of functioning and presenting ourselves, further suppressing and repressing the child in us needing to have a voice. In this time of Covid-19, we need to rediscover the child in us needing a voice.

How much or how little of the child in you is still alive and active? How deeply do you allow God into your life? Have you surrendered all your secrets, all the mixed up, confused, questionable, ugly parts of you that no one is permitted to see unless some of it erupts or slips out inadvertently under duress?

Prayer: Lord God, I do not want to resist you or fight you off any longer. I want to give it all up to you, even those parts of me I have held on to until now. It is clearer for me now how much there is still in me that keeps the child in chains and keeps the door of my heart bolted so that you cannot come in. Give me the strength to open the door, or if I cannot, Lord God, unlock the door and take hold of me. I know this is what I need even if I am afraid to agree to it easily. In Jesus' name I pray this; Amen.