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25 Saturday

Saturday Week 7 of Ordinary Time

James 5: 13-20

Ps 140 ; 1-3,8

Mark 10: 13 -16

Why did Jesus' disciples try to stop people from bringing their little children to Jesus for Him to touch them [Mark 10] ? Maybe they thought those mothers (surely it was mothers who were bringing them!) were being a bit too superstitious ? Or maybe they thought the children would be annoying Jesus, or preventing Him from His "serious" work ? Perhaps they thought they were "protecting" Jesus ? They had, no doubt, good intentions, yet Jesus was indignant at what they were doing, missing an important point about His work, and actually preventing people approaching Him. But He turned the occasion into a lesson about God's work and His kingdom which, He said, properly belongs to such as those children. It's a lesson each new generation needs to relearn, because we keep on getting the idea that we know best how God's kingdom should be served, how God should behave, who are the people He wants to be close to. We somehow learn to want to "keep Him" for ourselves. Children tend to be naturally spontaneous and open --- they say what comes into their heads, ask the most direct (and sometimes most embarrassing questions). To enter into God's kingdom requires an attitude that's as direct, honest, open and uncomplicated as a trusting child's, while at the same time we've to be and behave as responsible, mature adults in faith.

Lord, make my heart as simple, sincere, open and loving as You saw and praised in those children that were brought to You, whom You embraced and loved.

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