

In the time Jesus lived, all Jewish children were kept in the background. Baby girls were even despised by their fathers. Jesus' interest in the children was new and strange.

When the children came to Jesus, His helpers told the parents to take them away and stop bothering Him. They probably felt that the children were wasting Jesus' time. They knew that the older people could understand Jesus' teachings and the children couldn't. But the children *were* able to accept Jesus' love and

blessing on them without fully understanding about Him.

Jesus was displeased with His helpers because they tried to send the children away. He told them, "Do not turn the children away; let them come to me. And remember that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those like them." At other times Jesus used little children as an example of those who belong to the kingdom of heaven.

As the children came to Jesus, they must have felt His love for them. Some

people are not kind and children are afraid of them. But Jesus drew them to Him with His gentleness and kindness. He took them into His arms and held them. Jesus' enemies were uncomfortable to be around Him; but the children loved Him.

In bringing their children to Jesus, the parents did them a real favor. Some parents care very much that their children have healthy bodies, but do not care if they don't know Jesus. Jesus is unhappy with these parents. The parents who brought their children to Jesus had a real

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