

AUGUST 14, 2021  
Memorial of the St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr  
Matthew 19: 13-15

“LET THE LITTLE ONES COME TO ME.”

“Jacob Bronoski (a Polish-British mathematician and historian, best known for developing a humanistic approach to science), in his landmark television documentary, *The Ascent of Man*, revealed how medicine progressed in its development as a science. In the beginning, the doctor would read the great classics of healing, but would never touch the patient. He would direct a lowly surgeon to make the incision in the patient. Real healing didn’t take place, until one doctor had the courage actually to touch his patient. You see, you can’t heal them till you touch them. Jesus reached out to people and touched them. He had compassion.”<sup>1</sup>

My sisters and brothers, we know that the power of Jesus during His time was sought after. We heard several instances that just touching His cloak, just saying the words, people who were sick were healed. Because of this miracles of healing, people liked to approach or touch Jesus. The parents in our gospel for today was no different from those who approached Jesus, they wanted Jesus to lay hands upon their children. They knew Jesus was warm, welcoming, loving and approachable and His touch brought healing physically and spiritually, sickness bodily and forgiveness of sins, the spiritual restoration. We also know that Jesus loved everyone, that’s why, He admonished His disciples and told them “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”<sup>2</sup> Maybe the disciples wanted to guard Jesus from children’s noisy and unruly behavior but Jesus welcomed and demonstrated God’s love to everyone including children. Jesus made it clear to everybody, to His disciples especially, that everyone is equally important to Him because

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<sup>1</sup> <http://frtonyshomilies.com>

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 19: 14 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

all are children of God. He used this occasion to teach His disciples and us that if we like to enter heaven, we must have a child-like attitude: humble, innocent, obedient, simple, open, teachable, willing to change and easy to adapt, have total trust and confidence to those people around them, always see the goodness of people, ready to forgive and forget and have a freedom from prejudices and biases. Only these kind of attitude that we can be called children of God and enter His Kingdom.

Like St. Maximilian Kolbe who offered his life for others led him to enter heaven because like a child he trusted the Lord. Giving up his life resulted being with Jesus in His kingdom. At the young age of 12, he had a vision of Our Lady and consecrated himself to the Blessed Mother, opened himself to Jesus and like a child, gave all for God serving as a priest. According to him: "That night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."<sup>3</sup> He volunteered to take the place of a man with a family who was present during St. Maximilian's canonization.

My sisters and brothers, let us pray that we may have a child-like attitude, give all to Jesus, and like St. Maximilian Kolbe, willing to offer ourselves for others for the Kingdom of God. Let us show kindness, patience and understanding to our youth we encounter in our neighborhood, here in the church or at home, and pray for them and our children that they may grow in faith, knowledge and wisdom of Jesus.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)