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## REALIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

"I AM not sure you realize, my dear friends, who are engaged in teaching, your wonderful opportunity. You speak of the opportunity that the minister has; he has it sometimes with a tough lot, a hard lot, a gospel-hardened lot. You have the children and the young people at a formative period in character and life, and if you are the right kind of teacher you may bring an enormous influence, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to lead your young people for Christ and the church. Childhood has a right to expect from you the recognition that Jesus Christ gave to it. You remember the object lesson, when the ambitious disciples wanted this, that and the other, 'Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven.'

"I wonder what became of that little boy that Jesus took and set in the midst. Tradition says it was Ignatius of Antioch who became a Bishop of the Church of God and a martyr for the Lord Jesus Christ; but oh, that beautiful passage in the tenth chapter of Mark! You know, a mother always wants the best for her child, and so I can fancy an aggressive mother coming from the neighbors one morning and saying, 'John, you know that the great prophet of Nazareth in Galilee is not far away. Would not it be a lovely thing for us to take the children and just have the great Rabbi put His hand upon their heads and give them a blessing?' And she generated hope in the minds of others, and they journeyed to where Christ was, and those disciples that hardly ever understood the heart of the Master would have sent them away; but Jesus said, 'Forbid them not!' Teacher, next Sunday listen and you will hear the Great Teacher saying to you as you go to the school and to your class, 'Suffer, permit, allow, encourage the children to come unto Me for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'"—*From an Address by Rev. John Potts, D.D.*