

It is the temper that wins, this temper of service. For, even the most careless and unruly scholar recognizes it, and is, in the end, subdued by it. It is the gentle, persuasive atmosphere of utter devotion to his good, that melts, at last, the most obdurate; and it is so evidently the very exemplification of the Christ whom the teacher commends, that the Christ wins, too.

Besides, it ensures staying power to the teacher himself. Lack of appreciation, indifference, even rebuffs, have small weight with him who is seeking, in his work, not his own glory, nor even success, as the main end; but whose one thought is, in the spirit and name of His Master, to serve even the weakest and least worthy. He may not succeed; he will still serve.

The Question of Decision

Why Not the Little Ones?

By Mrs. Jessie Munro Johnston

"Why not the little ones?", said a little girl five years of age, when her mother was explaining that it was only the big people who joined the church and took communion, to show that they loved Jesus and wished to please Him. "Why not the little ones?" was the eager question of the child. It seemed to her small mind that the little ones could "love Jesus and wish to please Him". It is usually not well that children should be admitted to the communion at a very tender age. But there is no barrier to the child's deciding to love and serve Jesus. Children are not slow in making a very decided choice of companions. Why not make choice of Jesus to be their Friend?

"Did not our Saviour say, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not'?" He did not want them to wait till they were grown up and could understand all about Him. He wanted them to come even out of the mother's arms, and He took them into His arms and blessed them; and so He will do even now.

"As a little child", we remember Jesus said to the disciples who rebuked the mothers for bringing their children. Ah, He knew just what simple loving trust is in the hearts of the little ones. "Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so". This is enough for them—no doubts, no fears, no thought of unworthiness, just the loving trust of a loving child to a loving Saviour! Think of Jesus Himself making "a little child" the object lesson, the model for all who come to Him, even the grey-haired seekers, with all the experience of age.

"Have you found the Saviour, Mary?" asked a gentleman, as he laid his hand gently on the curly head. The blue eyes were raised to his in simple astonishment. "Why, sir, I have never lost Him", was the sweet reply. And should this not be the position taken by all teachers of the little ones? Should we not take it for granted that they "have never lost Him", rather than urge them to take Him as their Saviour? He is theirs now: let the teacher aim to keep Him in the hearts and minds of the little ones, so that the cord of love that binds them to their loving Lord may grow stronger and firmer as the years go on. A little child may be frightened away from Jesus, as it were, by being too strongly urged to accept Him. He is her Jesus now, and the new step her teacher wants her to take is full of mystery, and she is afraid to do the solemn things she is wanted to do.

With little ones, let the question of decision be not so much as to whether or not they love Him, but whether or not they wish to work for Him and help others to love and serve Him.

Teachers of the little ones should find constant joy in their work; for they know that they are sowing the seed in the most fruitful ground, free from the thorns and stones and weeds of later life.

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At the Critical Age

By Rev. W. D. Reid, B.D.

Is there a critical age in the religious life of every individual? Experience answers, "Yes". We all remember a period in our