

## Notes on Mark 10 verses 13 – 16 ‘Freddie and Nancy’s **BIG** Day’

I had Freddie and the children stand in front of me today to not only jump up and down for me, but also for you to value them as I am sure that this is why Jesus took a child and had him, or her, stand in front of him. This child was a rebuke to his friends who’d stopped people bringing their children to Jesus because they thought Jesus was either too important or the children were not important enough.

Today is when we remind ourselves that Freddie and Nancy matter to Jesus. For Freddie and Nancy’s mum and dad Micah 6 verse 8 and Jeremiah 29 verse 11 are important to them as a family. We know these verses are fulfilled in Jesus, in his life and in his death and resurrection and Jesus yearns for us to know that when we see either Freddie or Nancy that these verses are fulfilled in Jesus for us too. Nancy and Freddie remind us that it is never the case of who you are that matters, but whose you are; like Christmas, Jesus is not just for children.

Secondly, we remind ourselves that Freddie and Nancy belong to the Family of God. Freddie and Nancy are part of our family and our role as church is to bless them. But and this is really important, Freddie and Nancy are not to be passive in this belonging but active. As the family of God, we are all to learn, to serve and to love each other and this is not to be one way only. We want Freddie and Nancy, and all of our children and youth to bless, to encourage and to inspire us. We want to say that they all have value in the life of this church as this is their church too.

Finally, Freddie and Nancy are a model to each one of us. We live in a child and youth focussed culture and society and there is lots which is positive about this. Such as their energy, drive, hope and courage, yet it can also lead to the phenomenon of being a ‘kidult’, whereas adults we’re entertained to death and being me based or centred. What Jesus had a child stand in front of his friends, and us, we are firstly, to learn to trust, to have faith like a child and the child’s willingness to trust to do what they’re told. Secondly, we’re to harness the enthusiasm of a child and wholehearted and joyful following of Jesus he is not a fad but a learned lifestyle. And thirdly, we’re to have hope. For Freddie and Nancy their whole life lies before them and I pray that as they will be optimistic and hope filled as they live and encourage us to be and to do all these three things too.