Like a Child

[Mar 10:13-16 ESV] – 13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

I. Intro
   A. Shannon Ryan Testimony
   B. Ministry is important and significant in all areas.
   C. Yet, we need a reminder today about what is most significant
II. Text
   A. Verse 13:
      1. people were sending their kids to Jesus, that's a good thing, but not culturally normal
      2. The disciples did not understand, again
   B. Verse 14:
      1. The disciples hear a word from the Lord!
      2. Indignant: feeling or showing anger because of something unjust or unworthy
         a) Anger: righteous anger towards the disciples
         b) Unjust or unworthy: keeping the kids from Jesus is unjust
         c) Literal from the greek: much grief
      3. Take note, Jesus expects us as parents to not keep children from coming to Christ:
         a) Don't over schedule your life so there is not time for church and faith community
         b) Don't get lax in your priority of growing your kids.
   C. Verse 15:
      1. Children were the example of how to come to Jesus
      2. There were no doubts, just belief
   D. Verse 16:
      1. The tenderness of Christ is clear
      2. The Children were brought close, blessed by God, and He touched them.
      3. You, being His Child, have experienced the same treatment.
III. Points
   A. The Kingdom of God
      1. The concept of the kingdom is sometimes difficult to get our minds around
      2. The Kingdom of God (also called the Kingdom of Heaven) is the active, sovereign reign and rule of God over His creation. Rather than a physical territory or a piece of land with borders, it describes where God's will is recognized, obeyed, and experienced
      3. Simple definition: Everything under the realm of the King of Kings
      4. For such belongs the kingdom:
         a) Children belong in the kingdom, yes, but this is a much larger statement
         b) This statement is the kingdom belongs to the Chidren.
      5. JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST:
         a) [Rom 8:11-17 ESV] – 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17

and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

b) Literal Children, and Spiritual Children

B. Like a Child
   1. Kids simply believe in Jesus
   2. They are an example of what faith truly is.
   3. A Child believes, and an adult looks on skeptically
   4. Our faith needs to be pure as a child believes.
   5. [Mat 5:2-12 ESV] – 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
   6. Children and saving faith in Jesus:
      a) I believe Children can come to faith in Christ at an early age, I am a product of that.
      b) I also believe there needs to be much discipleship and nurturing of their faith.
      c) Our children deserve our attention and our best efforts in regards to discipleship
      d) It starts with parents, it is matched in effort with the church, and the community also supports this work.
      e) Parents, don't waste a moment, give your children every opportunity
   7. Like a Child:
      a) This is a model for us
      b) They tell you you're educated when you complicate the simple truth
      c) Don't get so educated that you lose the tenderness of childlike faith.
   8. This will be marked by HUMILITY, DEPENDANCE, and TEACHABILITY
      a) Are your marked with humility?
      b) Are you marked with dependance?
      c) Are you marked by a teachable spirit and mind?

C. Enter It
   1. By Faith you enter in to this kingdom
   2. Start with the faith, humility, and dependance of a child
   3. Finish with stronger faith, stronger humility, and stronger dependance…not less
   4. Our growth in sanctification should be marked with becoming more like Christ, while never losing the faith and response like a child.
   5. [Rev 2:1-7 ESV] – 1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

6. Will you choose this day to enter in by faith to the saving grace of Jesus Christ?
7. Will you choose this day to submit to Christ with Faith like a Child?

IV. Close
   A. We have much to learn from our children
   B. They have energy and purity in faith, let us learn and grow by this reminder
   C. And, also do not get in the way of a spiritual or physical Child coming to Christ!