INTRODUCTION:
1. Very simple things about being a Christian; yet hard for some
2. One of those simple, yet hard for some, is to be like a little child in receiving the kingdom of God
3. Christ is recorded as making references to this requirement on at least two NT occasions
   a. When the disciples were arguing about who was first
      1. Matthew 18:1-10 (the fullest account)
      2. Mark 9:33-37
   b. When the disciples refused to allow little children to be brought to the Lord;
      1. Matthew 19:13-15
      2. Mark 10:13-16
      3. Luke 18:15-17
   c. It is interesting that John makes no mention of this event yet must have been very impressed with its significance I JOHN 2:1; 2:12FF
   d. Paul referred to his brethren and converts as little children
      1. Galatians 4:19
      2. Declared he had begotten them with the gospel 1 Cor 4:15
4. Chosen text is MARK 10:13-16

RECEIVING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A LITTLE CHILD:
I. TO BECOME A LITTLE CHILD WE MUST START OVER:
   A. This perplexed Nicodemas; John 3:1-21
      1. As we come forth from the watery grave of the womb, we also come forth from the watery grave of baptism
      2. We inhale or drink deeply of that life-giving air
      3. Just so, as we are born again, we drink in that Spirit or life-giving Spiritual Breath from God. Acts 2:38-39
   B. We are a new creature, new life, new spirit, COMPLETELY HELPLESS 2 Corinthians 5:17
   C. The person who cannot look to God with this attitude and do this cannot enter into the kingdom of God
   D. Cannot be like Christ; Philippians 2:5-9
      1. As He took upon Himself a robe of man's flesh
      2. At our new birth, we are clothed with righteousness; Rev. 19:8
      3. From that point on dependent upon Him for our cleanliness; 1 John 1:9
II. FIRST DESIRE AFTER BREATH IS FOOD:
   A. 1 Peter 2:1-2;
   B. John 4:34 As Christ's meat was to do the will of the Father, so must ours be
   C. This is the family's responsibility
      1. Father has supplied that food, the word of God
      2. It is the responsibility of the church to minister it:
         a. Matthew 12:48-50 Jesus declared those who do the will of the Father to be a mother, that is the church!
         b. 1 Timothy 3:15 "the pillar and ground of the truth..."
         c. The Father has set those whose responsibility is to "feed the church" Acts 20:28
         d. And those who are to preach the word 2 Timothy 4:2
   D. To receive the kingdom as a little child is to DESIRE THAT FEEDING!
III. A LITTLE CHILD ATTACHES TO PARENTS:
   A. His identity is wrapped up in them
B. He strongly desires their company
C. His whole life is wrapped up in his Father and mother
   1. Happy to see his mother
   2. Excited by company of his family
   3. Comforted by them

IV. A LITTLE CHILD WILL DESIRE TO PLEASE PARENTS:
   A. Will discover what pleases and seek to do that
      1. Requires instruction
      2. Will see that instruction in word of God
   B. Will soon discover what displeases and try to avoid it:
      1. Needs and accepts correction;
      2. Seeks then to avoid in the future Hebrews 12:5-11

V. A LITTLE CHILD DESIRES TO GO WHEREEVER HIS PARENTS GO:
   "...that where I am, there ye may be also..." John 1:1-3
   "...no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6

VI. A LITTLE CHILD WANTS TO GROW TO BE LIKE HIS FATHER OR MOTHER:
   A. Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."
   B. Philippians 3:17 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."

VII. A LITTLE CHILD WANTS TO SPEND TIME TALKING TO AND LISTENING TO HIS FATHER AND MOTHER...NEEDS TIME WITH THEM

VIII. ABSOLUTELY TRUSTS
   A. TRUST AND OBEY “For I know whom I have believed...” 2 Tim 1:12b
   B. "EXCEPT A MAN BECOME AS A LITTLE CHILD, HE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD"