

## Like a Child

*“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”* Mark 10:15

The longer I’ve been retired, the more hopeful I become. Why? Because I see the similarities between retirement/decrepitude and being a little child. Life has gone in a complete circle.

So, I’d like to bring to your attention the following: *WHY MY LIFE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.*

I have to do chores even though I don’t want to, don’t want to, don’t want to.

I should save my allowance. (Also, should have saved it.)

I need to pay better attention. Because...

I’d lose my head if it wasn’t attached to my body. Or...

I’d forget to bring my body if it wasn’t attached to my head.

Accidents happen.

I still like recess. If only I did no more damage than a skinned knee.

If I don’t stop to take a nap, a nap will soon overtake me. Makes no difference where I am.

My penmanship needs more practice. Half the time I can’t read my reminders.

Unfortunately, when Jesus said the above, *“Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it,”* none of my nonsense is what he meant by “child”. Thankfulness is the issue. A child receives a gift (life under God’s rule, the kingdom of God, following Jesus) much better than an adult. A child accepts with a simple “Thank you!” Adults, like some of the Pharisees of Jesus’ day, tend to assume that whatever benefits we get from God, we deserve.

A good example of the difference. A little boy came home for supper one night with a neighbor boy’s favorite toy truck. The mom couldn’t figure out why her son had the truck. It was the neighbor boy’s absolute favorite. He rarely let it out of his sight.

“Why do you have Bobby’s truck?”

“He gave it to me.”

“Why would he do that?”

“I dunno.”

“Well, you must have done something. What did you give him?”

“Nothing.”

“Surely you gave him something for it. Think really hard.”

“No. I didn’t give him anything.”

“Then why did he give it to you?”

“Maybe he just wanted me to have it.”

Whatever the benefits bestowed upon us by God through faith in Jesus Christ, we have done nothing to deserve them. Send a Thank You Card. Enjoy. Appreciate. - DJ