

Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 18:1-14

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Mt 18:1-6(ESV)

The Kingdom of God

**Kingdom
of Jesus**

≠

**Earthly
Kingdoms**

The Kingdom of God

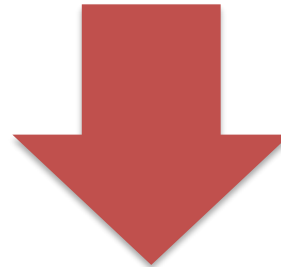
**Kingdom
of Jesus**

≠

**Earthly
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Elders



Children

Become Like Children

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⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 18:3-4 (ESV)

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Mt 18:3-4 (ESV)



Wash Each Other's Feet

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jn 13:12-17 (ESV)

Humility

- Realistic appreciation of ourselves
- Exercise our abilities, etc. for the benefit of others

Thinking of ourselves less

Humility

- Realistic appreciation of ourselves
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Thinking of ourselves less

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant...

Phil 2:3-7 (ESV)

Warning

BUT whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Temptation

Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Mt 18:7-10 (ESV)

The Judgment

whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Jn 3:18-20 (ESV)

Defilement

“What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Mk7:20-23 (ESV)

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Mt 18:7-10 (ESV)

Unrighteousness and the Kingdom

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

1 Cor 6:9-11 (ESV)

Matthew 18:10

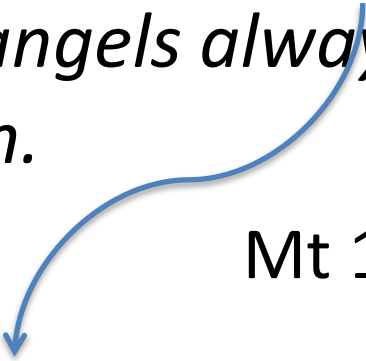
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Mt 18:10 (ESV)

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Mt 18:10 (ESV)



- *Children in general*
- *His disciples*

Angels

Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” ... Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Heb 1:7,14 (ESV)

Ninety-nine and One

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Mt 18:12-14 (ESV)

Sheep will wander

Jesus cares for His little ones

Jesus calls us to repentance

Jesus goes into search mode

You and I are Important

He set aside His glory and became a human being

He humbled Himself and died in our place

He was buried and rose to new life

He intercedes for us

The Saviour is only one step away

The Saviour is only one step away

Turn around!
Hear Him calling your name!

The Saviour is only one step away

**Turn around!
Hear Him calling your name!**

**Bow before Him
Surrender to Him
Know His incredible mercy
and grace and love!**