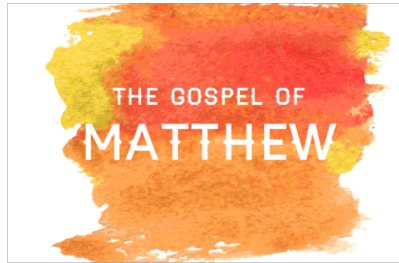


Disciple's Quest

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31



September 16, 2018

Spiritual Greatness . . . and Failure

Matthew 18:4-9

Main Idea:

Jesus addresses the matter of greatness in His Kingdom, and the opposite extreme of spiritual failure.

Outline:

1) Greatness in the kingdom – two characteristics

- Humility
- “Hospitality” (The practice of receiving other believers into fellowship and providing them with loving care.)

2) Failure

- Causing a believer to stumble (fall away into sin)
- The greatest failure: choosing sin over the kingdom

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

- 1) Why is authentic humility so elusive?

- 2) The world eschews humility. Why is humility especially honorable for disciples of Jesus?

- 3) As believers, why is it so important for us to “receive” other believers?
How is doing so Christlike?

- 4) How is the refusal to deal decisively with sin and indication of unbelief?

Select helpful resources:

Carson, D.A. *Matthew Vol.2 (Ch 13 –28), The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
MacArthur, John F. *Matthew 16 – 23*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1988.
Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
Toussant, Stanley. *Behold the King – A Study of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980.
Turner, David L. *Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.