

Matthew 18 – 15 December 2019

“How To Be The Greatest In The Kingdom”

Introduction

Jesus has been in Galilee preaching, teaching & having compassion on the people.

Jesus is getting ready to go down to Judaea in Matthew chapter 19 where He'll die on the cross

The centrality of Jesus Christ's death on the cross is coming clearer and clearer with each passing day.

His sacrifice will create the option for all of us to enter into new life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

So tonight we'll see the 4 attitudes that make someone the greatest in the Kingdom.

Let us H.A.R.P. on this to become the greatest!

1st attitude that makes someone the greatest in the Kingdom is Humility (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1

1. Read parallel account in Mark 9:33-34
2. They were arguing who was the best but didn't want to bring it up.
3. Jesus brings it up for them b/c He wants to give them this 4-point outline in Matt 18.

Read Vs 2-3

1. A change is required to enter the kingdom.
2. We need to change away from our haughty independence from God.
 - a. Read Psm 131:1-2

Read Vs 4-5

1. We need humility to take the Lord as authority over us as a child would. (Read Matt 19:14)
 - a. Exo 10:3 – How long will u not be humbled
 - b. James 4:10 – Humble yourself in the sight...

2nd attitude that makes someone the greatest in the Kingdom is Altruism (Vs 6-11)

Read Vs 6

1. Altruism is being others centered, selfless.
2. The children in the verse are children who believe in God.
3. If we hinder children, who naturally believe in God, from knowing and walking in true, there is a great consequence.
 - a. A consequence worse than being drown in the sea.
4. Conversely, we should be seeking to teach and guide others to know the God who made them.

Read Vs 7-9

1. Everything we do is being watched & learned by the next generation who think you're awesome!
 - a. Keep yourself under control to not offend.
 - b. We need to be using our body to help others and not hold them back from knowing God.

Read Vs 10-11

1. Don't offend children but help them know God
b/c that's why Christ came...to save such as those
2. Guardian Angels
 - a. This is certainly a reference to guardian angels.
 - b. Read Heb 1:14
 - c. Only problem with the popular belief is that there's no need to limit yourself to one!
 - i. I personally think of two b/c 1/3 of the angels fell into sin.
3. If Christ came to seek and save the lost, how much more should we be helping others to understand what He came here for?
 - a. Read Matt 5:19
 - b. Our actions of 'doing' are 'teaching' others

Now Christ gives an example of this love if His (Vs 12-14)

Read Vs 12-14

1. We should be willing to put our self at risk to keep children/innocents in the loving arms of God.

3rd attitude that makes someone the greatest in the Kingdom is Reconciliation (Vs 15-20)

This section is commonly called the “church disciple” teaching, but notice how it’s part of the answer to “How to become the greatest in the Kingdom”.

Read Vs 15

1. The goal of confronting a Christian regarding their sin against you is for reconciliation of the relationship.
 - a. Not to “get it off your chest”
 - b. Not to “vent”.

2. Reconciliation means to be thoroughly, mentally changed.
 - a. Have a different posture toward them than hatred or bitterness.
3. Clean, reconciled relationships between Christians allow for each other to help and challenge each other in further growth.
4. We should role-model between Christians what it's like to be reconciled to Christ.
 - a. Turn to II Cor 5:17-21
5. So go to an offender one on one & work it out.

Read Vs 16-17

1. Take witnesses simply for clarity of the offense
2. If reconciliation can't happen, then it should be known to all the it was attempted in all ways.

Read Vs 18-20

1. If reconciliation is attempted biblically by Christians, whatever happens is accepted by God.
2. Vs 19 related to who's right in an offence.

4th attitude that makes someone the greatest in the Kingdom is an attitude of Pardon (Vs 21-35)

Read Vs 21-22

1. Peter thinks he's being generous.
2. Jesus is looking for a full pardoning, forgiving attitude
3. It's not about how many times, it's about always being ready to pardon.
4. The next verse, Jesus will give us an example of a pardoning attitude & it won't have anything to do with numbers.

Read Vs 23-35

1. Why should we have an attitude of pardon and forgiveness towards others?
2. God has forgiven me SO MUCH.
3. Winning people to Christ
 - a. We want people to respect, even love us.
 - i. That gives us the ability to speak truth into their lives.
 - b. In order for people to respect and love us, show them mercy at every opportunity.
 - c. Read Luke 7:47
 - i. Those forgiven much, love much.
 - d. Showing pardon, mercy & forgiveness will give us the chance to show many people the way to eternal life thru Jesus Christ.

Conclusion –

We've seen the 4 attitudes that it takes to be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Humility
 - a. Are you role-modeling for others that Christ is your Master and you're not the authority on all things?
2. Altruism
 - a. Far from hindering other, we need to serve and lead others to Christ and His truth
3. Reconciliation
 - a. Keep clean relationships between each other to be able to continue to speak truth into their life.
4. An attitude of Pardon
 - a. We would be hopeless if not for Christ's pardon of us, therefore give it out in abundance to others.