

Seeing the Kingdom

Matthew 18:1-6



Matthew 18:

1 ¶ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this



Matthew 18:

child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Greatness...

We are made for this, but...

The path can be difficult!

Repeated question for Jesus

NOTE: He never said it was a bad thing!

'Great' Talk

- Mk 9:33 "what were you discussing..."
- Lk 9:46 - "An argument started among them"
- Effects of the Transfiguration
- He knows what goes on in our heads/hearts

Wrong Directions

When we focus on each other:

- Power, authority, position, titles*

- Jesus focused on entrance!*

- And it just so happens... a child!*

When you are lost...

. You need to take stock in where you are!

. Converted - "turn around, turn back"

. Become - "be made, be done"

. You will not enter - they were arguing about places not qualifications! Pharisee talk...

Child-likeness

- Some qualities are good - not childish!
- Discovery, awe, need for boundaries, examples
- Humble - "make low, reduce to plain"
- Not immaturity, but revolutionary!
- Faith, trust, hope, love = lifestyle

Receives a Child

- *Converted, becomes, humbles...*
- *Receive in My Name!*
 - *Love, mercy concern, example of Jesus*
 - *Doing it to them is doing it to Me!*
 - *Living citizens of the Kingdom*

Stumble a Child?

· "scandalize" - to block, impede, trip, entice...

· "little ones who believe in Me"

· Better to be weighted and drowned!

· Do we even need to think about this?

· Plenty of room with Jesus!