

# Greatest in the Kingdom

Matthew 18:1

## Matthew 18

- Brothers and Sisters in Christ
  - Humility
  - Protection
  - Joy
  - Restoration
  - Forgiveness

## Comparison

- The disciples...asked
  - Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

## Repentance

- unless you change
  - “turn”
  - “experience an inward change”
- and become like little children

## Repentance

- ...you will never enter the kingdom of heaven
  - Jesus shifts the conversation from status in the kingdom to entry into the kingdom.

## Repentance

- In what way should we become like children?

## Humility

- Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child
  - is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

## Humility

- Depend on God for protection and provision.
- Rely on God's mercy.

## Humility

- Turn away from a desire for status.
- Do not be preoccupied with power, position, and status that comes from human ability and resources.

## Humility

- whatever was to my profit
    - I now consider loss...
    - that I may gain Christ
      - not having a righteousness of my own...
      - but...the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
- Phil. 3:7-9

## Humility

- And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name
  - welcomes me.

## Humility

- We practice humility when we receive others in the name of Jesus
  - regardless of their status or their ability to benefit us.

## Humility

- Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,  
    - but rather...with sober judgement...
- Romans 12:3

## Humility

- Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,  
    - but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
  - Each of you should look not only to your own interests,  
    - but also to the interests of others.
- Phil. 2:3-4

## Humility

- Be completely humble and gentle;  
    - be patient, bearing with one another in love.
- Eph. 4:2
- live in harmony with one another;  
    - be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.
- 1 Pt. 3:8

## Kingdom Greatness

- Avoid the temptation of comparison and competition.
- Humbly depend on God for provision and protection.
- Receive others as if they were Jesus himself.