

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 18:1-14

Big Idea: Child-like humility is great!

1. Humble as a Child

Read Matthew 18:1-6. Are you surprised that Jesus uses a child to illustrate greatness? Why is that? Discuss the four verbs that illustrate being humble as a child. What implications do they have for our lives?

“Turn and become...enter”

“Humbles himself...greatest”

“Receives one...receives me”

“Causes one to sin...drowned”

2. Humble with our Sin

Read Matthew 18:7-9. How important is it to humble ourselves and deal with our sinful tendencies? What might that look like for a us as Christ-followers?

3. Humble in our Care

Read Matthew 18:10-14. Do you ever find yourself looking down on someone else for their behaviors? *“At least I’m not like [so and so].”* How do you think their heavenly Father sees them? Discuss the implications of the Father leaving the “99” and going after that one. How does God’s heart for the “lost sheep” inform us on how we should care for others who stray?

Application

Remembering how you entered the Kingdom of Heaven, let it permeate how you treat others. Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to reveal hidden attitudes you may have towards someone else. Pray and ask God to help you remain humble as a child.

That is true greatness!

Message Slides

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A. Humble as a Child (v.1-6)

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.

B. Humble with our Sin (v.7-9)

⁷“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!⁸ And 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.⁹ And 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.

Rev. 22:14-15

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

C. Humble in Our Care (v.10-14)

¹⁰“See 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.¹¹ 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?¹² And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.¹³ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

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