

Humility in the Christian Life

Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. 6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

- Overview of Matthew 18 and truths that we will learn
 - The first lesson is humility. We are to forget ourselves as we serve Jesus and other people 1-4
 - We are responsible for how we live and teach others to live. We are not to be stumbling blocks 5-7
 - We are to deny ourselves and that means cutting out of our lives things that would keep us from being obedient to the Lord 8-10
 - We are to realize that God loves the individual and never want to think in terms of the crowd 11-14
 - We are to practice church discipline. Loving and forgiving doesn't mean anything goes just that we will lovingly and kindly bring people to do right 15-20
 - We work at being together and in fellowship and never try to go it alone 19-20
 - We live in an atmosphere and spirit of forgiveness because we have been forgiven 23-35
1. The question asked that He is answering us shows us the truth that is to be learned 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
 - a. They are wanting to be great
 - b. Apparently they still think that He is going to set up His earthly kingdom
 - i. There is no doubt that the Bible teaches that the Messiah will come to set up His kingdom
 - ii. That means that they were not wrong to look for the Messiah to have His earthly kingdom
 - iii. When you read the Bible you will see both truths
 1. Separated by long periods of time
 2. Mountain peaks
 3. The last days that we are already in Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.
 - c. They think that they might get to be great
 - i. We often see in Scripture what we would like to happen rather than what God is saying will happen at this time

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1. Did the nation of Israel want someone to come and take them out of Egypt for the 430 years
 2. Did the Jews want the kingdom set up and the land restored
 3. Do I want Go to hear and answer my prayers right now
 - ii. He might want me to suffer persecution instead of prospering right now
 - iii. Every Jewish girl probably wanted to see that baby boy born that would stomp the head of the serpent
 1. It is what Eve thought Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.
 2. Probably what young ladies are looking for
Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel.
 3. What happened to Mary Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
 - d. What are they aiming at
 - i. Personal ambition?
 - ii. Personal power?
 - iii. Prestige?
 - iv. Self exaltation?
 - v. All the opposite of His kingdom
 1. In His kingdom we completely forget ourselves
 2. We live to serve and not be served
 3. When you consider yourself important then you are still not living for the kingdom
 - e. The lesson taught here is still important to the church today
 - i. One of the biggest needs in the church today is that of humility
 - ii. Men and women want to be the most respected and honored in the church
 - iii. There is a misunderstanding of leadership in the church today. Biblical leadership is serving not being served
2. In was in our humility that we came to Christ 2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- a. All need to be like the child or can't enter the kingdom of heaven
 - i. The fact that you must enter the kingdom tells you that they were not in the kingdom
 - ii. There are only two kingdoms
 1. God's kingdom

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2. The kingdom of darkness Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
 - b. To enter the kingdom first you must repent
Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - i. That is to recognize that they are sinful
 - ii. That is to honestly want to turn away from your sin to Jesus
 - iii. It is turning from your way, your opinion to His opinion and His way Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. I Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;
 - iv. It means recognizing that you are spiritually bankrupt, unworthy and undeserving
 - v. He becomes aware of His guilt
 - vi. He feels frustrated over his inability to fix his problem
 - vii. God is the only one that convict one of sin John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
 - c. Everyone who enters the kingdom of Heaven does so as a child
 - i. All must come humbly
 - ii. They must give up their independence and become dependent like a child
 - iii. They must come trusting like a child
3. We realize that serving God is done in humility 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
 - a. For the Lord Jesus greatness is about lowering yourself which is what He did Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - b. We recognize that we are not important
 - c. We lead by serving Matthew 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, 2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: 3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you

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observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. 4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, 6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, 7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. 8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. 9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. 10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. 11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

- i. They wanted to be seen
- ii. They wanted the best seats
- iii. They loved to be greeted properly
- iv. But Jesus taught that the servant was the greatest

d. Who is the greatest, the served or the server Luke 22:25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

- i. The younger more than the older
- ii. The server more than the served

4. In our humility we know how to treat all people. We will even receive and treat all well, down to the little children 5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

- a. We are not to treat people differently because of their status
- b. We are not to look at their wealth or position
- c. We are not to treat all kindly because we are doing it in Jesus name
- d. James explained to us this great lesson James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. 2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? 5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? 6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? 7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? 8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: 9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

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5. In our humility we know that we are responsible for how we live and treat others 6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.
- a. We live to not offend the little ones, the children, the saints of God
 - b. We are to be careful of our Christian walk so that we do not offend and cause others to fall
 - c. I can't just think of myself in the way I live and think
 - d. I can't use the fact that I have grace to live what I want
 - e. Don't cause your brother to stumble by your freedom and grace Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. 14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of: 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
 - f. Don't sin against your brother I Corinthians 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. 13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

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Vision Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church pastored by Austin Gardner. We are located in Alpharetta, GA, in the southern end of Forsyth County.

We are a missions-minded church with a goal of fully honoring God and helping families draw closer to Him.

You will feel welcome and loved, and you will receive a wonderful blessing from God's Word when you visit Vision Baptist Church.

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