



Matt 18. 1-6 “At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ 2He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3And he said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. 6But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.’”

❖ **Elevation** (boost, uplift, raise)

(v.1) “At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’”

Greatest = megas

Change & Become = Transformation

The disciples desire is to achieve success in the kingdom of heaven. They are discussing and wanting to achieve chief places and positions of power in the kingdom.

Matt. 11:11- “I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

❖ **Validation** (approval, endorsement, authenticating)

(v2-4) “He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3And he said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”

Jesus is speaking less about the child; instead Jesus is using the characteristics of a child as a metaphor and snapshot of humility and the values of discipleship:

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Jesus is clarifying his way of discipleship against other forms found during this time.

Mark 9.36-37- “He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37 ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little

children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

“If we can get our children to appreciate God’s power and Grace then we have done well.”

❖ **Liberation** (freedom, unshackling, relief from)

(v5/6) ““And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. 6But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.””

Jesus teaches that the Church (people) is the shelter for those who are childlike, those who are vulnerable and live in humility. Anyone who perverts this shelter, takes advantage of, or abuses the powerless is on trajectory for death.