

THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

Matthew 18:1-4

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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.

Become Like Children

“unless you **turn and become** like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

- ▣ Children were viewed as insignificant. They had no status in society.
- ▣ Children are vulnerable and depend upon the help and resources of their parent.

Humble Yourself

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

To humble oneself is to accept a position of low status; surrendering your concern for power or position.

Humble Yourself

Philippians 2:5–7

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

What Greatness Will You Pursue?

| The World's “Greatness” | “Greatness in the Kingdom” |
|---|---|
| Concern for Power, Position/Status | Righteousness (Mt 5:19) Humility Service (Mt 23:11-12; Phil 2:5-7) |

Humble Yourself

Matthew 23:11–12

¹¹ The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.