



Who “are” the greatest in  
God’s kingdom?  
Matthew 18:1-14

May 22, 2022 Rev. A. Leung



At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. See that you do not despise one of these little ones.

For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:1-14)

“Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”(v.1)



## WHO IS IMPORTANT IN GOD'S SIGHT? (v.1-4)

“Truly I tell you, unless you **change and become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”(v.3)



# "CHANGE + BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN"

- ▶ **Humility** (v.4)
  - an acceptance of insignificance
  - being unimpressive



**“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Php 2:6-7)**

# "CHANGE + BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN"

- ▶ **Total dependence**
  - By Jesus' grace alone
  - Shift our dependency



# "CHANGE + BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN"

## ▶ **Selfless submission**

- an act of submission
- faith in Jesus



**“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross !” (Php 2:8)**

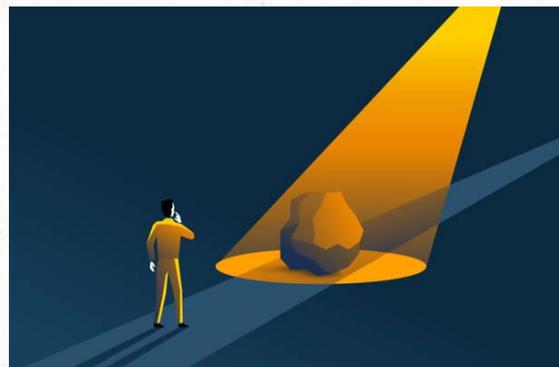
All who humble themselves are  
the greatest in God's kingdom



**"WELCOMES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME  
WELCOMES ME"**

## **Guard them (v.6-9)**

- ▶ **Do not "cause to sin"**
- ▶ **Not be "stumbling block"**
- ▶ **Our attitude toward sins (v.8-9)**



**"WELCOMES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME  
WELCOMES ME"**



## **Care for others**

**(v.10-14)**

- ▶ **Do not conveniently ignore the care of the little ones**
- ▶ **angels report directly to God**
- ▶ **Seek & care**

# REFLECTION ...

## chaotic vs. peaceful

- ▶ What are your challenges to change and become like little children?
- ▶ What is your role in the community to welcome, guard and care for those who are young in faith or have wandered away?

