

# Message Notes

## **Children of the Kingdom**

Matthew 18:1-14

Gospel of Matthew, Part 62

February 5, 2006

# Message Outline

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### **I. WHY Child-Like Humility is Required . . .**

#### A. What it is . . .

1. Children are humble in their neediness.
2. Children are humble in their dependence.
3. Children are humble in their trust.

#### B. Why it's required . . .

1. It's required to recognize I can't get in by myself.
2. It's required to recognize that I don't deserve to get in.
3. It's required to believe that I am totally dependent on God's grace and mercy to get in.
4. It's required to believe that Christ's crucifixion was necessary for me to get in.

### **II. WHAT Child-Like Humility Looks Like . . .**

- A. Humble hospitality toward others. (18:5)
- B. Humble purity for the sake of others. (18:6-9)
- C. Humble commitment to others. (18:10-14)
- D. Humble confrontation of others. (18:15-20)
- E. Humble forgiveness toward others. (18:21-35)

### **III. HOW Child-Like Humility is Grown . . .**

- A. We must continually see ourselves in relation to God's law. (Ps. 19:7)
- B. We must continually see ourselves in relation to God's character. (Is. 6:1-7)
- C. We must continually see ourselves in relation to God's Savior. (I Timothy 1:16)

## Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 18:1-14 again. How does this section connect with the last section? Given the context of chapters 16 and 17, why might the disciples be asking, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom?"
2. Identify the three times "little ones" are mentioned in this passage. Is this passage about literal children or about somebody else? How do we know?
3. How does Jesus rock the disciples' world in His response to their question? What are they looking for? What does He question? Why does He question it? How is this so different than what happens in most churches?
4. Is Jesus really telling us to cut off our limbs and poke out our eyes in 18:7-9? What is he telling us? How might that practically look in our lives?
5. What are the possible interpretations of that strange verse, Matthew 18:10? What is the point that Jesus is making?

## Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Think about and discuss the humility of children. Share how you've experienced the humility of children. Why does entrance to the kingdom require "child-like humility?"
3. What are the five ways that Jesus says child-like humility expresses itself? (We looked at 3 of them.) How is humility expressed in each one? Make sure you can see the connection.
4. Why is it easy to "be" humble alone? How does community really reveal whether we are truly humble? How are competition, comparison and independence contrary to the humility that Jesus is calling us to? Which of the 5 marks of humility is most challenging to you?
5. Read Psalm 19:7. What does this verse have to do with Matthew 18:1-14? How do we grow humility in our lives? Read Isaiah 6:1-11. How was humility grown in Isaiah's life? Read 1 Timothy 1:16. What did Paul realize about himself?