

"Who is the Greatest?"

Matthew 18:1-14

Key Verse: 18:4-5

1. What had Jesus and his disciples been talking about?(17:25) Read verses 1-4. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? Why might they have asked this question? What more basic question did Jesus first address? (3) What does it mean to change and become like little children?
2. Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? What does Jesus mean by "the lowly position of this child?" What are the childlike qualities about which Jesus is talking? How is being childlike different from being childish?
3. Read verse 5. What does it mean to "welcome a child in Jesus' name?" Read verse 6. What is the contrast in this verse and verse 5? What is the eternal significance of the way we treat "little ones?" How bad is it to cause one who believes in Jesus to stumble? Why is this so bad?
4. Read verses 7-9. What does Jesus teach about things or people that cause people to stumble? Why is it so serious to cause a person to stumble?
5. Read verse 10. What does it mean to "look down on one of these little ones?" Why should we not despise anyone?
6. Read verses (10 (Lk 19:10) - 14. What does the good shepherd do when one of his 100 sheep wander off? What does this teach us about God? What must be our attitude toward God's sheep? Toward sin? (Mt18:7-9)