

Hear | What Scripture is God highlighting?

MATTHEW 18:1-6 (NLT)

KINGDOM GREATNESS

the words of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Matthew 18:1 About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” 2 Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. 3 Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4 So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

the words of JESUS
[in the Gospels]

5 "And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. 6 But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea." NLT

the words of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Examine | ... the context.

V 1-4: Kingdom Identity : Who are you... becoming?

V 5-6: Kingdom Image : How are you living... behaving?

the **words** of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Examine | ... the context.

“WHO IS THE GREATEST?”

Who are you... becoming? [Kingdom Identity]

2 He called a child, whom he put among them, 3 and said, “**Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.**”

-Matt 18:2-4 NRSV

- Turn from sins — **repentance**
- Become like a child — **humility**

the words of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Examine | ... the context.

2 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in **humility** value others above yourselves... 5 In your relationships with one another, have the **same mindset as Christ Jesus**: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he **made himself nothing** by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he **humbled himself** by becoming obedient to death— **even death on a cross**.

-Philippians 2:3-8 NIV

the **words** of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Examine | ... the context.

How are you living... behaving [Kingdom Image]

“Whoever **welcomes** one such child in my name *welcomes me*. If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

-Matt 18:5-6 NRSV

the **words** of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Apply | ... What is God saying to you?

Worldly Greatness	Kingdom Greatness
Fighting/Struggling for...	Receiving God's Gift of Grace
Recognition - Rewards	Repentance
Position - Performance - Power	Serving - Sharing
Pride	Humility

the **words** of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

Apply | What is God saying to you?

- 1. Choose repentance — Jesus welcomes us.**
- 2. Choose humility — Jesus accepts and loves us.**
- 3. Choose serving and sharing — Jesus is true greatness.**

the **words** of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]

RESPOND | What is a prayer reflection?

Dear Dad,

Thank You for welcoming me as Your child and as Your image bearer. I pray that I would receive Your grace as the gift it is, and that I would stop striving and fighting to find greatness in the world. Help my identity be rooted in humility as I look to Your Son, Jesus the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Give me a kingdom mindset and a life shaped by the greatness that comes from knowing You, the great God. Let my life be marked by repentance and by humbling myself before You daily. Transform my heart so that I would welcome the “little ones” the vulnerable, the weak, and the marginalized just as You have welcomed me.

the words of **JESUS**
[in the Gospels]