

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

Week 11

This is a most critical truth to grasp and maintain in order to know and understand the identity and deeds of the King. In delineating the Lord's definition of greatness, ponder, process, and put together all the thoughts of this chapter, then recall all that has been covered in the last 17 chapters, especially the teaching blocks (chs. 5-7, 10, 13)

Ch. 18

Verses 1-9

“I tell you the truth...”

**Father in
heaven,
Hallowed be
Your Name,
Your kingdom
come, Your
will be done...**

☞ “...unless you ***change and become*** like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever

humbles himself like this child

is the **greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**”

☞ “and whoever welcomes a little child like this in ***My Name*** welcomes Me.”

☞ **CRITICAL PRIORITY:** Jesus is revealing the radical (root form) source of what is **MOST IMPORTANT** in His Father's kingdom. His Dominion and Desire revolve around this **MOST HOLY CENTRAL ESSENCE**. Our own estimation and exaltation of this virtuous essence shows up in how we accept those who are also humble like the Lord.

☞

☞ Check out the severity of the consequence for those who reject the **Holiness of Humility**.

☞ “But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

☞ “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

- If your hand or foot...
- And if your eye...

Discussion: Aren't the Father and the Son the greatest in the kingdom? If we consider the Lord's prayer, what connections can we make about “hallowedness”, “humility”, and “greatness”?

“See that you do not look down...”

...on earth as it is in heaven...

- † “What do you think? [parable of the lost sheep] ...In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”
- † “If your brother sins against you...
 - “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
 - “...if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My Name, there am I with them.”

Give us today our Daily Bread...

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Forgive us our debts...

7X?

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

...as we forgive our debtors.

77X

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a

king who wanted to settle accounts

with his servants...” [Parable of the unmerciful servant]”

“This is how My Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

“...from your heart.” = your deed comes out of your identity which you obtain through faith in the King whose deeds come out of His identity [especially His passion which we will come upon at the end of Matthew’s Gospel

Discussion: How is forgiveness and reconciliation (settling accounts) like “daily bread”? What does humility like a child have to do with this daily sustenance?

In conclusion:

Define “greatness” according to God.

How does this change one’s worldview and life values?

If your worldview and values were one with God’s, what would your life look and sound like?