

**Gospel of Matthew 18 “Humility and Hell”**  
**Matthew 18:1-9**  
**September 24, 2023**

**Matthew 18:1-9**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! 8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

Old Testament scholar -

“At all points in worship, in administration of justice, at meals, in all dealings, there constantly arose the question of who was greater, and estimating the honor due to each was a task which had to be constantly fulfilled and was felt as very important.”

Jesus’ culture was not kid centric.

“Late morning sleep, midday wine, children’s chatter, and sitting in the assembly of the ignorant” ruin a person.

Little kids know that they are little.

Children live from the position of whose they are more than what they’ve done.

**Matthew 18:5-6**

5 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

How do we assess our humility?

It is no longer who you beat, but who you embrace.

Matthew 18:8-9

8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

Zephaniah 2:3

3 Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land,  
you who do what he commands.  
Seek righteousness, seek humility;  
perhaps you will be sheltered  
on the day of the Lord's anger.

There is a sensitivity to sin that humility brings.

We can become childlike everyday.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- 1.) What did God say to you through His word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) If children are less aware of status and rank, when do you think you became of aware of "greatness?" How were you encouraged to be great?
- 3.) How can our pursuit of greatness become never ending? Have you every had a moment of success that created more pressure to achieve?
- 4.) What would it mean if the assessment of our humility is how we embrace or overlook "little ones?"
- 5.) Often greatness creates distance from others. Jesus is advocating a kind of greatness that comes through moving closer. What is one way to move closer?
- 6.) What connection can you make between humility and repentance? Why would a life without humility be a life headed to Hell?
- 7.) From the way Jesus described a child and greatness, how could you be more childlike this week?
- 8.) How can your Grow Group help each other apply this passage this week?