

Matthew
chapter 18
August
23, 2020

Who is the Greatest in Heaven?

*Memory
Verse*

“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3-4

Jesus' Disciples Have Questions...

Jesus' disciples came to Him with a question about who would be greatest in God's Kingdom when it was established. Jesus gave them an answer that was more than they bargained for. First, Jesus told them that before they could even be concerned about being the greatest, that they would have to be like children to even get into heaven. Jesus wasn't telling His disciples that they would have to “become” children again. What He meant was that they would have to have a child-like faith. Children don't necessarily understand all the deep intellectual ideas contained in the bible, but they can understand the most important part of the bible. This is that Jesus came to die for our sins, and that if we accept what He did for us on the cross we will make it into heaven.

Second, Jesus tells His disciples that we are all to be child-like, and sometimes children can go astray, or get lost. Jesus shares a story about a shepherd that has 100 sheep and loses just one. That shepherd leaves the 99 sheep and goes to find the one that was lost. Jesus tells the disciples that our Father in Heaven will not let one of His sheep become lost.

Third, Jesus explains to the disciples how people become lost and what we can do. Jesus explains that people can become lost in sin. If you have someone that has sinned against you, we are supposed to go and talk to that person and try to make up. But, if that doesn't work, then we are to take one or two other people with us to try and bring our friend back from their sin. Finally, as the last resort, if your friend won't listen and give up their sin, we are to take that person before the whole church! This might seem severe, but sin is deadly and will keep us from God. There is nothing that God wants more than to spend time with us, and sin keeps us from Him.

Lastly, Jesus shares about how important it is that we forgive others. Peter asks Jesus how many times we should forgive someone. Peter thinks he is being smart by saying 7 times. Jesus says, not only 7 times, but 70 times 7 times. Jesus' intention was not to put a limit on how many times we should forgive someone. He is saying that there is no limit to how many times we should forgive. Jesus paid the debt of my sin, which I could never repay, and if I don't forgive others, our Heavenly Father won't forgive us. (Matthew 6:14)

*Bible**Questions &**Personal**Application*

Read Matthew Chapter 18 and answer the questions below.

1) What did Jesus say we have to be like to get into heaven?

Hint: Matthew 18:3-4

2) What animal did Jesus compare people to?

Hint: Matthew 18:12

3) What does Jesus say the shepherd does when he loses one of his sheep?

Hint: Matthew 18:12-14

4) What are we supposed to do if someone becomes lost in sin? What are the steps?

Hint: Matthew 18:15-17

5) Is there someone that has ever sinned against you? Have you forgiven them?

Prayer:

Jesus, I thank you that You have forgiven me more times than I could even understand. There are times that I have been lost and You always come looking for me. I had a debt that I could never pay, but Jesus went to the cross, died for my sins, and now that huge debt is paid for. Jesus help me to forgive others that have sinned against me. Help me to pray for them. Help me to share the good news about who You are, and what You've done to others who are lost in sin. Thank You for Your grace and Your mercy in my life. Amen

Craft: Lost Sheep

<https://churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-articles/349008-lost-sheep-craft.html>

