

The Children – Matt 18:1-6

Intro:

Read Matthew 18:1-6

- The Kingdom's system works differently
 - We are so far beneath Jesus that there is no comparison.
 - Compare a professional athlete to myself (maybe a story about blocking Kyle in volleyball)
 - **The Humility of a Child is their Complete Dependency**
 - A child can do nothing without their parents
 - **Matthew 11:25-30**
 - Rest: We struggle to rest in the lord because we struggle to hand over the things stopping us from resting. In order to take up the yoke He is offering it, which means letting go of what we are holding on to. What are you holding on to?
 - fun
 - You recognize your dependency on the lord when you recognize his voice more clearly (Theo saying “My dad, My Dad”)

When we humble our sleeves like Children and are completely dependent on the Lord, we are modeling Jesus.

- Humility
 - **Humility is the Posture of our Savior (DT)**
 - Ephesians 2... He humbled himself to the point of death on the cross.
 - **John 5:19 “The Son can do nothing of His own accord.”**
 - **John 5:30 “I can do nothing on my own.”**
 - **John 5:41 “I do not receive glory from people.”**
 - **John 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me.”**
 - **John 7:16 “My teachins is not mine, but His who sent me.”**
 - **John 7:28 “I have not come on my own accord.”**
 - **John 8:28 “I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”**
 - **John 8:42 “I came not of my own accord, but of Him who sent me.”**
 - **John 8:50 “Yet I do not seek my own glory.”**
 - **John 14:10 “The words that I say to you I do not speak of my own authority”**
 - **John 14:24 “And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.”**
 - “Humility isnt thinking less of myself, but thinking of myself less.” - C.s. lewis
 - **“Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all.” - Andre Murray**

- True humility causes us to flee from sin.
 - Not fight... scripture time and time again tells us to flee from sin. Yet our pride causes us to try to fight it.

When we recognize that, that it is Christ fight not ours, then we can do what He wants us to do. In this passage we see

- The Protection of Children
 - **"He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future."- Hitler**
 - Children are our future.
 - What then can we do for them?
 - Your story... your story of how you might not have been humble and following Jesus and your story of the change in that and becoming humble and seeing Jesus Posture. That is one of the greatest gifts we can give them... But we can only give it to them when we have humbled our selves like children in complete dependency on Jesus

Because Humility... Humility is the posture of our Savior. So we should do it.

Themes:

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom?”

Humility

Wrath of God on those who cause children to sin.

The Next Generation (A war for the next generation, and the winner determines the future)

Notes:

"He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future."- Hitler

What if the one he brings into the middle is an infant? Or 12 years old?

- How might this affect it?

Vs. 4 begins with “Therefore”

“The term *paidion* is the diminutive of *παῖς* (*pais*, “boy”) and is often used in the nt as a general reference to a child or children (Matt 2:8; Mark 5:39). Luke uses the term throughout his infancy narratives (e.g., Luke 1:59; 2:17). Since *paidion* refers to children according to age rather than parentage, Jesus often uses it in the Synoptics when he teaches generally about children—always positively, with an emphasis on the need to become like a *paidion* in order to inherit the kingdom of God (e.g., Matt 19:14; Luke 18:16–17). Jesus also presents his hearers’ reception of children as a litmus test for their reception of himself (Matt 18:5; Mark 9:37). In 1 John 2:18, John uses *paidion* as a term of endearment for his recipients. Only once is the term used negatively in the nt—in 1 Cor 14:20, where it refers to immaturity among believers (similar to *teknon*, “child,” in 2 Cor 6:13).”

Isaac Blois, [“Children.”](#) in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

Sea is often an allegory for sin... He is not simply calling for them to be put to death... but condemning them to hell.

“God is so great. That any differences of rank in His kingdom must pale into insignificance when seen in His light.”

Children in the eyes of their parents are not viewed as who is the greatest, but simply in love and compassion.

Children are the ones celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus! Matthew 21:15

Notice that the punishment or warning against harming one of these little ones comes after the pleading to be humble. Because the loss of humility or pride is at the root of all sin.

“Humility is not so much a grace or a virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all.”- Andrew Murray

- **Humility is the posture of our Savior. When we** are humble, that is when we are like Christ.
 - John 5:19 “The Son can do nothing of His own accord.”
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My translation:

At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, “In the Kingdom of heaven who is the greatest?” And calling to him a child, he stood him in the middle of them, and said “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter into the kingdom. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child, these are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but if whoever (causes) of these small ones that believe in me to Sin (fall away, to stumble), It will be profitable for him to hang himself with a great (a millstone large enough a donkey is needed to rotate it) around his neck and be caused to sink (drown) in the depths of the sea.

Points to make:

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Slides:

- Intro slide
- Matthew 18:1-6 "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?' And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 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 depths of the sea.'" (ESV)
- The Humility of Children is their complete Dependency
- Matthew 11:25-30 "At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'"
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