

Never Get On A High Horse!

Matthew 18:1-10

1 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.

10 "SEE THAT you DO NOT DESPISE one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

I. Jesus is giving a Command, not a suggestion!

Vs 10 - "SEE THAT"...

KJV - "TAKE HEED that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."

"Take heed" = "You better pay close attention".

NIV - "See to it!"

II. Jesus is commanding, "DO NOT DESPISE one of these little ones"!

1. *What Does the Word "Despise" Mean?*

"Despise" = "mentally against the person".

2. How Do We "Despise" the Little Ones?

Romans 12:3 - "...do not think of yourself more highly than you ought...."

III. Jesus is contrasting Humility vs. Pride!

Matthew 18:3 - And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Humility is when I realize that all of my righteousness, goodness and opportunity is strictly in Christ!

Psalm 36:2 - In their own eyes they FLATTER themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.

Mike Mille' - "Preachers get themselves in trouble when they start believing their own press releases!"

Proverbs 29:5 - Those who FLATTER their neighbors are spreading nets for their feet.

Psalm 12:3 - May the Lord silence all FLATTERING lips and every boastful tongue—

Proverbs 26:28 - A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a FLATTERING mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 28:23 - Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a FLATTERING tongue.

Romans 16:18 - For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and FLATTERY they deceive the minds of naive people.

1 Thessalonians 2:5 - You know we never used FLATTERY, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness.

Jude 1:16 - These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and FLATTER others for their own advantage.

Daniel 11:32 - With FLATTERY he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

IV. Jesus identifies with the "Least"!

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the LEAST of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Luke 16:15 - He said to them, "You are the ones who JUSTIFY YOURSELVES IN THE EYES OF MEN, but GOD KNOWS YOUR HEARTS. What is HIGHLY VALUED AMONG MEN is DETESTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT!

V. Jesus reveals who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven!

Matthew 18:1b - "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Matthew 18:2-3

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 (KJV- be converted) and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

"converted" = "twist it completely to the reverse."

VI. Jesus is looking for true humility!

Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the POOR IN SPIRIT for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

VII. Jesus is trying to expose our motives!

Mark 9:35-37

35 And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

36 And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them,

37 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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