

MATTHEW 18 "GREATEST?"

- How shall we Christians promote better peace and prosperity on this earth? The Lord's answer is to be humble rather than seek personal greatness. To be servant of all. -To work to see that each person has his own *vine and fig tree* (house and garden, justice, health, education, safety, and happiness).

- *"About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Which of us is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?' Jesus called a small child over to him and put the child among them. Then he said to them, 'Unless you turn from your sins, and become as little children you will never (even) get into the Kingdom of Heaven (let alone be greatest). Therefore anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me."*

Matthew 18:1-5

- **Who gets?** The fallen human nature we are born with wants to establish such things as: Who gets the money? Who gets the limelight? Who has and who has not? Who gets to be in charge? Who deserves and who does not deserve? Who is important and who is expendable. Who wins and who loses.

- The **"wanting to be greatest"** attitude of the disciples was entirely of the sinful world, just the opposite of the attitude and values of the Kingdom of Heaven. Our commission is to hurt for the one's the Lord hurts for and help them.

- **The example of Jesus.** *"You know in the world Kings are tyrants and officials lord it over the people beneath them. But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be the leader among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be first must become your slave. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others and to give my life as a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:25-28

- **The little ones.** *"It is not my Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish."* V14 • Jesus tells about the good shepherd going into the wilderness to find one lost sheep. The value of the hope of the least.

...Blessed are -- Those who mourn (over the world's miseries) - Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (that things be set right) -- The merciful -- The peacemakers. Matthew 5:1-10