

Matthew 18:1-4 An Opportunity to be Counted Among the Greatest

Introduction: Call a little child to the front and then let him go back to his seat The disciples had a question on their mind.

I. The question on the minds of the disciples, V. 1

- A. They wondered: When Jesus sits on the throne and who will occupy that top position under Him: Just where would each one of them fit in.
- B. According to Mark 9, they had discussed this secretly as they traveled along the road. (Off to the side so Jesus would not hear.)
- C. Also according to Mark, they had argued about it. (There were stinging remarks and hurt feelings.)
- D. Jesus forced them to bring the question out in the open and direct the question to Him, V. 1

II. The little child called before the group.

- A. Jesus called a little child before the group, V. 2 (Greek – boy.)
- B. He then explained that one must become as the little child and be converted or he cannot get in the kingdom, V. 3.
 1. Before one starts warming about what will take place in the kingdom, he had better make sure he get in.
 2. He was not implying that they were all lost and needed to be saved, but He knew that one of them was lost. (Judas was. He was probably the main one who wanted the top position.)
 3. Judas was expecting to be one of the top men in the kingdom, but he would not even get in.
 4. One does not get in by being baptized or by his religious works. (If so Judas would get in.)
 5. One gets in by becoming like the little child and being converted. (Born again – saved.)
 6. A little child is dependent: he cannot take care of himself but depends on others. (Even so the lost sinner cannot save himself, but must depend on another.)
 7. A little child is believing: he accepts what he is told. (The lost sinner must believe what God tells him. He is a sinner. Jesus saves.)
 8. A little child will ask for what he wants. (The lost sinner must ask Jesus to save him.)
- C. He then explained who is the greatest, V. 4.
 1. One who humbles himself as the little child is the greatest.
 2. He speaks here not of getting saved, but of what one should do after his is saved and what he must do to become great. (Salvation is something God does for you, but this is something you must do yourself.)
 3. Any saved person who will humble himself to God and let God have His way is the greatest.
 4. As for as kingdom rule is concerned, only one can be the greatest, but as far as true greatness is concerned, it is available to every Christian.
 5. That means that even you can be right up there with the greatest.

Conclusion:

1. You can be saved. That in itself is great.
2. After you are saved you can surrender yourself to God. You become one of the greatest.
3. You can join this church. That way you will be associated with the greatest.

