

A Childlike Faith?

Matthew 18:1-4 – Who is the greatest

- **V. 1 seems to show clearly that the disciples still did not get what Jesus was saying or who exactly He was**
 - **Matt 17:12 “So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.”**
 - **Matt 17:22-23 “As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.”**

Matthew 18:1-4 – Who is the greatest

- **Matthew Henry “Christ spoke many words of his sufferings, but only one of his glory; yet the disciples fasten upon that, and overlook the others. Many love to hear and speak of privileges and glory, who are willing to pass by the thoughts of work and trouble.”**

Matthew 18:1-4 – Who is the greatest

- **Parallel passages in Mark 9:33-41; Luke 9:46-50 tell us that the disciples had been disputing with one another and Jesus perceived what was causing the dispute**

Matthew 18:1-4 – Who is the greatest

- **Contrast the disciples seeming confusion with Matthew 8:5-13 and Matthew 15:21-28**
 - **Roman Centurion**
 - **The Canaanite woman**
- **Crumb in Ch. 15 vs mustard seed in Ch. 17?**

Matt 18:2-4 – Become like a child

- **“Truly I say to you that 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.”**

V. 2-4 – Become like a child

- **What is Jesus saying here?**
- **V. 3 Turn – Greek word Strepho**
 - **(turn around; come to believe; change one's ways; to convert; to change)**
 - **Any ideas what they were to turn from?**

V. 2-4 – Become like a child

- **Genesis: 2:15-17 (placed in the garden) and Genesis 3:1-6 (The Fall)**
 - **They were to trust in God to supply the good**
 - **Choosing was not sinful**

How do we become like a child?

- We Trust God/Christ the way a child can/should be able to trust their parent
- What should parents do for a child?
 - Protect
 - Provide
 - Instruct
 - Nurture

How do we become like a child?

- **Childlike vs. Childish**
 - **Reflect on the Roman Centurion and the Canaanite woman**
 - **Consider the woman at the well**
 - **Skydiving**
 - **Paul in 1 Corinthians**

How do we become like a child?

- **Know why it is that you trust**
- **Do not misplace your faith into a human or institution**

Matt 18:5 – Receive the children

- **Children = disciples**
- **Seems to be a call to discipleship and the maturing of believers**
 - **In order to help others mature, you must be mature or at least maturing**
 - **So are you?**

Matt 18:6 – Do not lead children astray

- **Pulpit Commentary: Shall offend; cause to stumble - give occasion for a fall, i.e. either in faith or morals.**
- **How do we protect from leading others and ourselves astray either intentionally (what is likely the focus of the verse) or unintentionally?**

Matt 18:6 – Do not lead children astray

- Article by Greg Koukl from Stand to Reason Ministry
 - How to keep from getting spiritually weird
 - Warning: this may be a difficult read for all of us at times but something we all need to at least look at
 - Highlights

Do not get led astray

- Lean on those whom God has placed in your life with gifts and/or positions of authority (albeit a limited authority)**
- Just because someone uses a Bible verse does not mean they used it correctly**
- You cannot trust everything at the local “Christian” bookstore**

Do not get led astray

- **Just because something “works” does not mean it is right**
- **Something is not correct or incorrect merely because of who said it...this means we must learn to discern the actual content of what is being said**

Do not get led astray

- Christian maturity is not getting a specific message from God for every situation but knowing what God has said in His word and applying it to every situation with Christlike character**
- While we can learn to “chew the meat and spit out the bones” if what you are reading or hearing has a lot of “bones” then avoid it**

Do not get led astray

- The main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things...don't become hyper focused on what turn out to be secondary issues**
- Always remember that The Enemy is a great deceiver who appears as an angel of light**

Summary

- **Know that you trust Jesus and Jesus alone for your salvation (this is true faith)**
 - **If you don't know what this means talk to one of the elders or myself after service or later this week**
- **Know why you trust Jesus**
 - **If you want help with this there are many who would be very happy to help you learn and grow**
- **Know how to share what you know or are learning with others**

Email Matt with Questions

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