

A Fundamental Misunderstanding

Matthew 18:6-14, Mark 9:38-50, Luke 9:49-50

The twelve disciples of Jesus had been having an ongoing conversation. Well, it was more than just a conversation; it was a full-on heated disagreement. Who would be the greatest in the kingdom? They couldn't come to an agreement, so they wanted Jesus to decide. Jesus did, but not in the way they expected.

Greatness Comes Through Humility

The disciples thought that the kingdom of heaven would operate like the earthly kingdoms around them did. Jesus corrected them. If they wanted to be great in his kingdom, they had to be humble like a child.

Matthew 18:1–4 (ESV)

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.

Humility Receives, Pride Rejects

In their attempt to become great, the disciples had offended and rejected each other. Jesus gave them a stern warning about rejecting followers of Jesus.

Matthew 18:5–6 (ESV)

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.

Mark 9:38–41 (ESV)

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
	→ A Fundamental Misunderstanding
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

Stumbling Blocks Should Be Avoided At Any Cost

Jesus further warned his disciples about the seriousness of causing another believer to stumble. Stumbling blocks will be present in the world until Jesus returns, but believers should guard against being the avenue in which a stumbling block enters another believers life.

Matthew 18:7–9

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.

Every Sheep is Important

This is the second time Jesus has used this parable. His first audience was the Pharisees. This time he used it illustrate, to the disciples, the value that each believer has to Jesus. If the shepherd rejoices over one straying sheep that is found, why would anyone dare cause any of the other sheep to go astray.

Matthew 18:10–14

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. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voice of the Martyrs - This month's action pack items are bath towels, wash cloths and antiseptic wipes.

Women's Christmas Gala, December 11th & 12th - Purchase tickets today at the women's kiosk on the patio.

Ramona Pregnancy Care Clinic - Adopt a Mom begins November 22. Sign up on the patio or at the RPCC office.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoeboxes are here! Pack your own, or have someone pack it for you between services.