Matthew 18: 1-14

Greatness in the Kingdom

Review Matthew 17 - FAITH

Achievement Vs. Relationship

What God is able to do Vs. What God does

Our Image of God vs. His Reality

Today's Scripture Reading:

Matthew 18:1-14

Outline

I. A Question

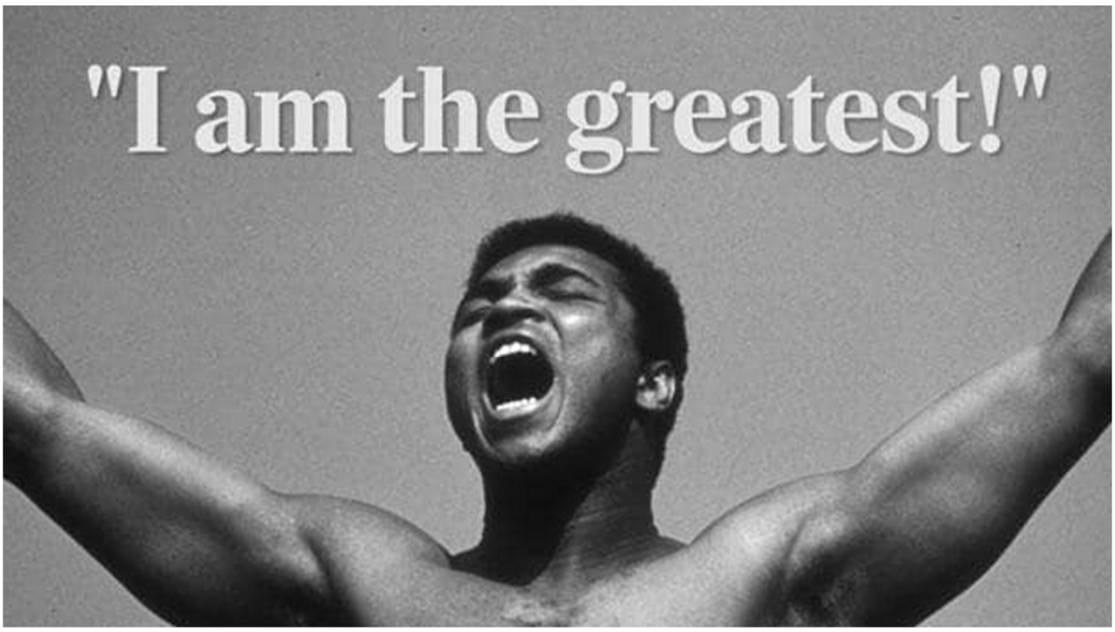
II. “Change and become like children”

III. “Little Ones”

IV. The value of “the one”

I. A Question:
Greatness in the Kingdom
(Matt 18: 1)

- **Matt 18:1** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”


"I am the greatest!"

How do we measure human greatness?

II. "Change and Become like Children"

(Matt 18: 2-4)

- " Change" - to turn around or convert
- "whoever takes the lowly position"

Realization of our needs

Recapture a sense of amazement and wonder

III. "Little Ones"

(Read Matthew 18: 6-8, 10)

- "Little Ones"
- Do not "Cause them to Stumble"
- Do not "Despise them"
- Cut it off

“ Little Ones” –

Those who are weak, marginal or of little power

Matt 18:6 “ If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

v10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that *their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father* in heaven.”

“Enough is enough, Silicon Valley must end its elitism and arrogance”
– Washington Post

“Silicon Valley Has an Arrogance Problem”
- Wall Street Journal

“Ouch: San Francisco Rated No.1 Snobbiest City in America”
- KQED

“If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off… “

A truly great person is one who repents

V. The value of "the one"

Matthew 18: 12-14

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?13 And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Ezekiel 34: 15-16

15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

The value of “the one”

Closing Thoughts

Greatness in the Kingdom is defined by:

1. **Admitting our needs**
2. **Honoring the powerless**
3. **Repenting of autonomy**
4. **Living in amazement and wonder**