

*What We Need
To Become*

Matthew 18:1-14

**What Is Really
Important To
You?**

Matthew 16:24-26

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

I. Your Possession Of Heaven Is More Important Than Your Position In Heaven

A. The disciples' question (18:1)

Matthew 18:1

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Luke 9:46

Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest.

I. Your Possession Of Heaven Is More Important Than Your Position In Heaven

B. The divine answer (18:2-5)

Matthew 18:2-5

2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

I. Your Possession Of Heaven Is More Important Than Your Position In Heaven

B. The divine answer (18:2-5)

1. Your heart is not right (18:2)

Matthew 19:13-14

13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

I. Your Possession Of Heaven Is More Important Than Your Position In Heaven

B. The divine answer (18:2-5)

2. The example of a child (18:3-4)

- a. Children have no resume**
- b. Children have no resources**
- c. Children have no reservations**

Heaven is obtained by absolute dependence on Christ alone

I. Your Possession Of Heaven Is More Important Than Your Position In Heaven

B. The divine answer (18:2-5)

3. Your actions reflect your acceptance of Christ

Humility in service is expected

Matthew 10:39-40

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

II. Do Not Be A Stumbling Block

A. God's viewpoint (18:6)

Matthew 18:6

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

II. Do Not Be A Stumbling Block

B. The world's reality (18:7)

Matthew 18:7

Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

II. Do Not Be A Stumbling Block

**C. A drastic outlook is needed to prevent being one
(18:8-9)**

Matthew 18:8-9

8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

II. You Should Not Be A Stumbling Block

D. Do not despise others (18:10)

Matthew 18:10

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

III. The Parable Of The Lost Sheep

A. The principle of the mission of Christ (18:11)

Matthew 18:11

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

- 1. The mission of Christ is to save the lost**
- 2. Our mission is the same**

III. The Parable Of The Lost Sheep

B. The priority of the mission (18:12-13)

Matthew 18:12-13

12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

1. Every single soul is important

2. Those not going astray are safe in the sheepfold

III. The Parable Of The Lost Sheep

C. The picture of the mission (18:14)

Matthew 18:14

Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

**Remember the start
of this discussion?**