

Matthew 18 Study Notes
2/15/23

7 qualities that should mark the personal life of a Jesus-follower

Matthew 18: 1- 4 1. Humility

Where are Jesus and his disciples for this chapter?

- So much is revealed through this question/answer

Why do you think the disciples ask Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

What does this question reveal about their understanding of the kingdom of heaven?

Jesus responded by _____

What child-like quality is Jesus saying we need?

What action does he say we need first to take?

When we welcome a little child its the same as _____

Matthew 18:5-6 2. Responsibility

In our "welcome posture", is Jesus only talking about children?

Take a peek back at Matthew 10:40-42

What's a Millstone? - One of a pair of large, flat, round stone used for grinding grain.
Used by the Romans to drown people as type of punishment.

Matthew 18:7-9 3. Self-sacrifice

Is Jesus being literal in these verses?

Dramatic metaphor to underline the avoidance of being a stumbling block for anyone on their journey to Jesus.

Matthew 18:10-14 4. Compassion for the Individual

V 14 "In the same way" or "So it is" - compares this parable with the will of God that none should perish.

Jesus is willing to leave those who are safe, to go and look for the lost.

Matthew 18:15-17

5. Correction

A shift occurs here to the opposite perspective.

Steps for addressing a sin in another believer:

V 15 - Go privately - Why?

Won't listen? then....

V 16 - Take one or two others with you - Why?

Deuteronomy 19:15

Still won't listen? then....

V17 - Take your case to the church - Who is the church?

How are we to treat them if they still won't listen?

How did Jesus treat these people?

The goal must be the restoration of relationship more than proving one's self right.

Matthew 18:18-20

6. Fellowship

V 18 echoes Matt. 16:19

V 19-20

- "where 2 or 3 are gathered together" reveals the **nonessentials**: large numbers, rank of the people, place, time and form of meeting
- "gathered in my name" reveals what is most **essential**: we are known by him and his name, He is the point of our gathering, we gather around the character and nature of Jesus, and we gather in a manner worthy.

And the miracle is that he is here with us in that gathering.

Matthew 18: 21-35

7. Forgiveness

In v. 22, how many times does Jesus say we should forgive someone?

Does he mean this literally?

Genesis 4:24

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

-A *talent* was a monetary unit worth about twenty years' wages for a laborer

-A *denarius* was a day's wage for a laborer

V 33 is a Key verse: shouldn't you have mercy for your servant just as you were shown mercy?

What does God expect from us?