

Matthew 18:1-14

Who Is the Greatest? (1-5)

- ◆ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, asking, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?” So Jesus called a child to come and stand in front of them, and said, “I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the Kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child. And whoever welcomes in my name one such child as this, welcomes me.
- ◆ To enter into the kingdom of heaven we need to be like children. What is it about children? They are innocent, they tell the truth, they are obedient, they are humble, they love genuinely, and many other attributes we can think of. Children innately have the heavenly attributes, it’s the society that moulds them to lose their goodness. Let’s become like children, we’ll enter the kingdom of heaven and we’ll be great in the kingdom of heaven.

Temptations to Sin (6-9)

- ◆ “If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea. How terrible for the world that there are things that make people lose their faith! Such things will always happen—but how terrible for the one who causes them! “If your hand or your foot makes you lose your faith, cut it off and throw it away! It is better for you to enter life without a hand or a foot than to keep both hands and both feet and be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye makes you lose your faith, take it out and throw it away! It is better for you to enter life with only one eye than to keep both eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.
- ◆ In this world there are things or events that will makes us lose our faith and that is terrible is we lose our faith, it’s even more terrible is we are the cause of other to lose their faith. As the heading says “Temptations to Sin”, we need to get rid of our temptations as they will lead us to sin. We need to cut them off and save our lives, tolerating and keeping them will lead to our destruction. We know our temptations and we need to get rid of them, nomatter how precious they are to us.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep (10-14)

- ◆ “See that you don't despise any of these little ones. Their angels in heaven, I tell you, are always in the presence of my Father in heaven. “What do you think a man does who has one hundred sheep and one of them gets lost? He will leave the other ninety-nine grazing on the hillside and go and look for the lost sheep. When he finds it, I tell you, he feels far happier over this one sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not get lost. In just the same way your Father in heaven does not want any of these little ones to be lost.
- ◆ God is in search for the lost people and when he finds them he rejoices. He wants us all safe and sound. He sent his only begotten son to redeem/save us.