

Who Belongs in the Kingdom
of Heaven?

Introduction

- The Disciples quarrel about who is the greatest?
- Some feel they are greater
- They thought the kingdom of heaven can be acquired by their abilities

The Little Children

- “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matt. 18:2-3)
- Unless you change your mind about the kingdom of heaven and what it means to be great, you will not enter the kingdom of God.

Godly Characteristics in Children

- Humility
- Dependence
- Simplicity
- Hold on to and remember promise
 - “Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; 9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’ 10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.” (Neh. 1:8-10)

Godly Characteristics in Children

- Teachable
 - EX: The Late Abba Epiphanius
- The grow
- Fascinated with God's creation
 - “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...” (Rom. 1:20)
- Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.” (Matt. 18:4-5)

The Offenders

- “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matt. 18:6)
- Who are the offenders?
 - All that lead a person to sin – to love sin
 - All that leads a person away from Christ

How will they become an offense?

- Dealings, words, written messages, my resources, etc.
 - EX: Jeroboam (king of Israel)
 - “And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin.” (1 King 14:16)
- The Judgement of the Offender
 - Thrown into the sea
 - “There is no more sea.” (Rev. 21:1)
 - “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the Seas, and the flood surround me...” (Jon. 2:2-3)

Offenses Towards Yourself

- “If your **hand or foot** causes you to sin, **cut it off and cast it from you**. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. 9 And if your **eye** causes you to sin, **pluck it out and cast it from you**. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”
(Matt. 18:8-9)