

Week 31
April 26, 2009

The Kingdom of Children Matthew 18:1-6, 19:13-14

A question of greatness (Matthew 18:1)

The context in Mark 9:33-34 and Luke 9:46

The answer to the question in Mark

*"If anyone wants to be first, he must be _____
and the _____ of all."*

James and John ask a big favor in Mark 10:35

Jesus' answer:

"You don't know what you're asking for."

"You will drink the cup I drink..."

"This is not for me to grant."

A reiteration about servanthood

"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus brings a child into their midst (Matthew 18:2-4)

A word of truth

"Unless you _____ and become like _____ you will never enter the kingdom of heaven ..."

The big *therefore*

"Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom."

Other similar messages

Proverbs 3:34 and 11:2, Isaiah 66:2, Matthew 23:12, Ephesians 4:2, Philippians 2:3 and 8, Titus 3:2, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:5-6

Jesus speaks about the treatment of children

(Matthew 18:5-7, 19:13-14)

"Whoever welcomes a little child in my name welcomes me."

"If anyone causes one of the little ones to sin," it's very bad news."

"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin ..."

The little children come to Jesus (Matthew 19:13-14)

The disciples' initial approach

Jesus' response:

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them ..."

"The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

He placed hands on them (*"took them in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them;"*
Mark 10:16)

Jesus' additional words in Mark 10:15 and Luke 18:17

"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it."

Adulthood and the games people play