

Part 2 - Matthew 18:5 -14 **Jesus' Radical Answer about 'The Greatest'**

❖ **Discussion questions to get us thinking:**

- ❖ What is the “mission” of the Church?
 - Spread the Gospel
 - Share the love of Christ
 - Help those in need
- ❖ What are our responsibilities as Christ's disciples today?
 - To live lives according to faith
 - To live lives living the mission of the Church

❖ **Read Matthew 18:5 -14**

- ❖ Who is Jesus referring to when He speaks of “little ones”?
 - Those who are newly coming to faith
 - Those who are weak in faith
 - Those who are struggling with their faith
- ❖ What is Jesus warning His disciples about and why is Jesus using such strong language?
 - In living our lives as Christians we, through our sinful deeds, do not lead one of these “little ones” away from faith.
 - Jesus is stressing how important this is and also how we as people by not thinking can so easily do this.
- ❖ What is the true role of angels and how do we misunderstand their purpose?
 - From the Greek word angelos - messenger.
 - Heavenly beings that praise and serve God.
- ❖ **Read 1 Corinthians 8:1 -13**
- ❖ Paul speaks of not eating meat offered to idols because it could lead somebody who is weak in faith into unbelief. How can we apply this teaching to us as Christ's people today?
 - It might be legal to go to a casino and gamble, but we have to consider what kind of a Christian example we could be giving to a brother or sister who we would consider one of these “little ones” that might be struggling with a gambling problem.

Follow up questions

- ❖ Who according to Christ our Lord are we supposed to watch out for and protect?
 - All of our brothers and sisters in Christ
 - Especially these little ones.Why?
 - When we receive them we receive Christ Himself
- ❖ What are we as Christians supposed to do if we see a brother or sister falling into sin?
 - Come to their aid multiple times
- ❖ What is the difference between astray/wandering and lost?
 - Astray/wandering means that one is off course and can be brought back fairly simply.
 - Lost means you have to search for them to find them and they could truly be dead.
- ❖ What is the difference between sin and unbelief?
 - Sin with repentance can be forgiven.
 - Unbelief would mean that one does not believe even to be repentant.
- ❖ What is the will of the Father?
 - That all of the world is saved (John 3:16 -18).
- ❖ **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1 -7**
- ❖ What does it mean to be “one body”, “one Church”?
 - We are all interconnected through our faith in Christ.
- ❖ Are all of Christ's people equal in the eyes of God?
 - Yes.Are all of Christ's people the same in the eyes of God?
 - No, we as members of the body all have our separate and individual purposes which all are to bring honor and glory to God.
- ❖ How does God look upon those of new faith?
 - As those of greatest need.