

## **Part 1 - Matthew 18:1 -4** **Disciples & Dumb Questions**

### ❖ **Discussion question to get us thinking:**

- ❖ When we think of “worldly greatness” who comes to mind and why?
  - The richest.
  - The strongest.
  - The most powerful and influential.
- ❖ When we think of “The Church” who do we think of as the greatest?
  - The person who gives the most in time and treasure.
  - The person who has attended the church the longest.
  - Those who hold lead positions and offices in the church.
  - The person who wields the most power and influence in the church.
- ❖ What is our perception of children? What is their role in our world today?
  - Cute and cuddly.
  - Playful and joyful.
  - They are our future.
  - We support them, watch over them, and nurture them.
- ❖ How does the role of children in our world today differ from the role of children in a farming family a few generations ago?
  - Expectation of farm children was to tend to chores and help work the farm
  - The more children, the more hands, the more could get done on the farm.
  - Most work was performed by physical labor; multiple children were a plus.
- ❖ What characteristics do we attribute to children?
  1. Dependent - Can't care for themselves.
  2. No real voice in decision making.
  3. Easily duped or tempted.
  4. Immature in thought and reason.
- ❖ How does the role of a healthy child differ from the role of a severely handicapped child in the world we live in?
  - A severely handicapped child is a burden to those who assist him.
- ❖ In the “world” in which we live when we think of caretaking for the poor and needy where does the responsibility fall?
  - The state itself or assistance from the state.
- ❖ **Read Matthew 18:1 -4**

## ❖ Follow up questions

- ❖ What was the perception of children in the time of Christ?
  - They were a burden in cost and care until they could care for themselves.
  - They were something you had to support and watch over.
- ❖ How do we miss the words of Christ in this chapter?
  - Matthew 18 is not about church discipline it is about Christian compassion for those in need.
  - Turning the world on its head - Seeing things through the eyes of Christ not the ways of the world.
- ❖ What does it mean to get into the reign of God?
  - Not by being the most powerful and influential.
  - Not by being holy and pure.
  - How we treat each other following the words of our Lord.
  - Being humble.
- ❖ Who gets the center of attention in the “world”?
  - Celebrities.
  - Politicians and world leaders.
  - People on whom the media focuses.
  - The rich and famous.
- ❖ Who gets the center of attention in the “Kingdom of God”?
  - The truly humblest.
  - The weakest.
  - The most vulnerable.
- ❖ **Read Matthew 5:1 -12**
  - 5:3 - Nothing to offer God.
  - 5:4 - Leads to mourning.
  - 5:5 - Powerlessness.
  - 5:6 - Look to God.
  - 5:7 - Through God's mercy towards us we are merciful.
  - 5:8 - By Christ's grace our hearts are made pure.
  - 5:9 - We share the Gospel.
  - 5:10 -12 - Christ's love gives our life focus.
- ❖ Who is the greatest in Christ's Church today?
  - Those who need to hear God's word and feel Christ's forgiving grace the most.