

Sermon Notes – March 17, 2019

Review

- ⇒ In Mathew's gospel, Jesus talks a lot about "the Kingdom of Heaven." While the kingdom won't be fully realized until Christ's future reign, we are expected to live as citizens of the kingdom now. Our community should reflect kingdom values!
- ⇒ Two weeks ago, we saw Peter confess Jesus as "*the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Last week, we saw this confession affirmed in Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain. Just as the disciples got a glimpse of Jesus' glory, we need to see His glory!

Today's Text: Matthew 18:1-35

As the reality sets in that their Rabbi is the Christ, the disciples begin to think about their role in the kingdom. Who would be greatest? Jesus' answer not only address the question of greatness, but also reveals what community looks like in the kingdom.

Greatness Redefined as Child-Like Humility (1-4)

- ⇒ Jesus isn't pointing to the child's _____, unselfishness, or lack of knowledge. Rather, Jesus points to the child's total _____ on others.
- ⇒ Greatness is not defined by my _____, but by my reliance on Jesus and how much I reflect Him.
- ⇒ Jesus then goes on to speak about community. Why? _____ leads to community. We need each other!
- ⇒ Moreover, we need to be a gospel-oriented, grace-filled community where humility thrives. What does this look like?

Becoming a Community Where Humility Thrives

- ⇒ _____ and _____ are offered regardless of status (5-9). Worldly standards of greatness should not play into church life (see James 2:1-7).
- ⇒ **You don't have to earn value, you _____ value (10-14).** How does the idea of seeking something speak to its value?

- ⇒ **Grace and accountability are _____ (15-20).** The fact that we are all sinners and here by grace doesn't negate accountability — it simply alters our end goal. A kingdom-oriented community is one that seeks _____.
- ⇒ **Such a community requires radical _____ (21-35).** Because none of us deserve to be here, there isn't room to say, "You can't be restored."

We Need an Accurate View of God and His Grace

- ⇒ Jesus' parable makes a shocking claim about God. The first servant's debt represents our sin against ____ and the second servant's debt represents other peoples' ____ against us. Yet, the first debt is several _____ dollars greater than the second debt!
- ⇒ Jesus is helping us see how much we underestimate both the greatness of God and the goodness of the gospel. Why such a big debt? The debt has more to do with _____ I sin against than _____ I did.
- ⇒ Any offense against God incurs a _____ debt and requires a _____ payment. If you think you bring something to the table, you are wrong! This is the humility Jesus is after. The kind of community we are talking about is impossible without this realization!
- ⇒ Forgiveness in community is a difficult thing! We aren't just talking about forgiving mistakes or lapses in judgement, but _____ offenses. Such forgiveness is impossible if based in my strength or my feelings.

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ We need a bigger view of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! True humility is impossible without grasping God's greatness. How big is God in your life? Do you have an accurate view or have you underestimated Him?
- ⇒ Think about this—everyone Jesus is speaking to in Matthew 18 considered him or herself to be Jesus' disciple, but not all of them were citizens of the kingdom. Some were following Jesus but relying on their own merit. What are you relying on to follow Jesus?
- ⇒ How do you contribute to a community where humility thrives? Is there forgiveness you've withheld or favoritism you've shown? Do you push back when people speak into your life?

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

How was greatness defined in your family growing up? What did it mean to be successful?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the entire text (Matthew 18) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was it about?
2. As the disciples debated who was greatest in the kingdom, what do you think their conversation looked like?
3. What aspect of the child's life does Jesus want His disciples to imitate? What do you think it means to humble yourself like a child?
4. Did you hear anything surprising in the parable of the unforgiving servant? Why did Jesus make such a huge contrast between the two debts?
5. How is a bigger view of God connected with humility? What does this have to do with being the kind of community we see in Matthew 18?

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

6. Look up several of the following passages on community and discuss how Matthew 18 ties in. Based on what you read, do you think community is optional for the believer? John 13:35; 15:12; Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 11:33; Galatians 5:13; 6:2; Ephesians 4:32; 5:19,21; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; James 2:1-7; 5:16; 1 Peter 4:8-10; 1 John 4:11
7. Living in a community and growing in humility requires a greater view of God. What are some practical ways you can grow in your appreciation of God's greatness?
8. Let's get personal! Discuss the final point under Responding to God's Word on the sermon notes.

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday Worship: March 24, 2019

"A Good Question with a BAD Motive"

(Matthew 19:1-12)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: ▪ innocence ▪ dependence ▪ abilities ▪ Humility ▪ Acceptance ▪ protection ▪ already have ▪ compatible ▪ restoration ▪ forgiveness ▪ God ▪ sin ▪ billion ▪ who ▪ what ▪ God-sized ▪ God-sized ▪ malicious ▪