

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont**  
**Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit**  
**Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon**  
**Lesson # 2 March 07, 2023 – March 12, 2023**

**Unit I:** Called from the Margins of Society  
**Subject:** The Wonder of Childlike Qualities  
**Text:** Matthew 18: 1-9

**Key Verse:**

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as the little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18: 4, KJV).

**Lesson Pointers:**

- 1) Humility: The Need (Matthew 18: 1-5)
- 2) Humility: The Cost (Matthew 18: 6-9)

**Introduction:**

Now, humility and humbleness is a missing virtue among the disciples of Jesus Christ. The reason is that the disciples view Jesus Christ's Kingdom as temporal, their spiritual immaturity arouses a competitive spirit within them. You see, the disciples human experiences with the Kingdoms tells them that kings need a second-in-command position and so, the disciples sought to know who among them would get the position. **Luke 9: 46 says,** "Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest." Now, perhaps their motive behind the desire may have been of envy and jealousy. But whatever the cause JESUS CHRIST rebuked them by teaching them that spiritual greatest is accepting the very fact that they had no more status than a child's. This is because Little children possess no worldly ambitions and desire for power or positions and they (little children) treat each other as equals. Therefore, as disciples we are to humble ourselves as little children, by doing so we are counted as great in the Kingdom of heaven (Read Matthew 18: 4).

**Lesson Pointer # 1**

- Humility: The Need (Matthew 18: 1-5)

JESUS CHRIST'S disciples question was a response to their understanding of JESUS CHRIST'S words in Matthew 17: 25-26, "He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, JESUS prevented him, saying, **What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers?** 26 Peter saith unto him, of strangers. JESUS saith unto him, **Then are the children free.**"

The disciples of JESUS CHRIST thought like most Jews thought, that JESUS CHRIST was preparing to set up a temporal kingdom, and they wanted to know who would occupy the principal positions and the prominent post of honor (Matthew 18; 1). JESUS CHRIST rebuked HIS disciples attitude and their worldly thinking by demonstrating that in order to belong in HIS Kingdom ones condition must be like that of a child (Matthew 18: 2-3). This changes oneself to a lowly status that requires a change from ones habit of life or their opinions of others (Matthew 18: 4). JESUS CHRIST said that as HE taught and as HE

showed love and kindness to others, we as HIS (JESUS CHRIST'S) disciples should possess the same spirit proving their love for HIM. So, know that whosoever receive one little child in the name of JESUS CHRIST'S receiveth HIM (Matthew 18: 5).

### **The Wonder of Childlike Qualities!**

#### **Lesson Pointer # 2**

- **Humility: The Cost (Matthew 18: 6-9)**

**JESUS CHRIST goes on to tell HIS disciples that who soever causes one of these little ones that believe in HIM (JESUS CHRIST) to sin, it would be better for them to have died before committing such sin (Matthew 18: 6). JESUS CHRIST goes on to warn the world because of the things that causes people to stumble (sin), such things must come, but JESUS CHRIST warns the person through whom they come. JESUS CHRIST was warning HIS disciples to make sure that they were not the cause (Matthew 18: 7). Now, believers and followers of JESUS CHRIST must recognize that it is possible to offend and harm vulnerable believers in other ways than by the temptation to sin. It can be through your harsh remarks, your attitude, your refusing to forgive and restore, and the genuine concern for others needs and feelings. So, if your hand or foot offend you (hand causes you to steal, foot cause you to run to sin), cut it off, and cast them from you, it is better for you to enter into life halt or maimed, than to have two hands and two feet to be cast into hell (Matthew 18: 8). And if your eye offend you (if your right looking on things to lust after them) pluck it out, and cast it from you; it is better for you to enter into life with one eye, than have two eyes to be cast into hell fire (Matthew 18: 9).**

### **The Wonder of Childlike Qualities!**

#### **Nuggets of the Lesson:**

- 1) **Be converted as a little child so that you can enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18: 3; Matthew 19:14; Psalm 131: 2).**
- 2) **Humble yourself as a little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18: 4; Matthew 20: 27; Matthew 23: 11).**
- 3) **As believers let us not be guilty of offending one of the little children that believe in JESUS CHRIST (Matthew 18: 6; Mark 9: 42; Luke 17: 1-2).**
- 4) **If your right hand or left hand cause you to sin, cut it off, and if your foot (is used to kick the innocent with, causing you to sin), cut it off (Matthew 18: 8; Mark 9: 43-45).**