

Greatness

Matthew 18:1-14

Who is great, and why?
Who is great in God's Kingdom?



1:

The disciples are seeking greatness → *in the Kingdom of Heaven*

2-4:

God only accepts the lowly → and He honors them

5-6:

skandalizō = to reject or turn away from Jesus
to cause someone to reject or turn away from Him
Not welcoming the lowly (causing them to stumble)
brings the worst imaginable punishment

7-9:

Stumbling or causing stumbling (falling away) is worse than death

10-14:

God pursues & rejoices with the lowly

The Big Idea

God requires lowliness

God pursues & rejoices with the lowly (the only kind of disciple there is)

So must we



Application

Put to death pride and status

What motivates you?
What do you carry with you into the Church community?
Jesus "made himself nothing...becoming a servant...humbled himself...
to death"
What does it look like for you to follow Him?

In the Church
In the world

Value and rejoice with "the lowly"

First century: orphan and widow
Who are "the lowly" today?
Value and rejoice with "the lowly": Individually, in households, at work &
school, in politics, in small groups, in the church community
Because we all are "the lowly"

Find and remove "stumbling blocks"

Anything that hinders us or others
from genuinely finding and following Jesus
"But **God chose the foolish things** of the world to shame the wise; God
chose **the weak things** of the world to shame the strong. God chose **the
lowly things** of this world and **the despised things**—and **the things that are
not**—to nullify the things that are, **so that no one may boast before him**. It
is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us
wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.
Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'"

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

- Which description(s) best describes you in the world?
☐ Among the great. ☐ Aspiring for greatness.
☐ Wishing for greatness I'll never achieve. ☐ Among the lowly.
☐ Other.
Why might that be?
- Who are "the lowly" in your world? in your life?
- What might cause "the lowly" to reject or turn away from Jesus?
- In what ways did Jesus make Himself lowly like a child?
What might it look like for you to follow Him?
- What does it look like for you to welcome and pursue the lowly?
What might it look like for us together?

Conversation starters with people in daily life, whether or not they are Christians

Who are "the lowly" in society?
What is the right way for them to be treated? Why?