



Parables of the Kingdom ~ 1

(Leader's Notes)

Relationships with one another in the Kingdom      Matthew 18:1-14

1. HUMILITY      Matthew 18:1-14

The question v1:                      “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

The answer:                              Jesus responded to the question by using a child as an example and then telling a parable to illustrate His answer.

a.) Jesus uses a child as an example      v2-10



What lessons do you think Jesus wants us to learn from a child?

- 1.) The main lesson is that we are to be humble like a little child. A child isn't concerned about being the greatest, and nor should we be. V4
- 2.) Unless we are willing to change from being proud, to becoming humble, we cannot even enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 3.) When we welcome a little child, it is just as if we are welcoming Jesus. What we do for a child, or a person who 'seems' insignificant is never wasted, if it is done because we love Jesus. V5
- 4.) We need to be careful not to do or say anything that will cause a little child, or a new Christian to do something wrong. V6
- 5.) Children are very important to the Father in Heaven.

b.) Jesus uses a parable as an illustration      v11-14



What lessons can we learn from this story?

- 1.) These 'little ones' are very important to our Heavenly Father. In this chapter Jesus is speaking about children, but this can also be applied to those who are new Christians, or the person who doesn't seem important in the world. These 'little ones' are important to God.
- 2.) They are so important to the Father that He goes out to search for them.
- 3.) They are so important that their angels can come freely before God in Heaven at any time.
- 4.) We are to value these 'little ones' and do all we can to bring them to know Jesus.

## 2. FORGIVENESS

**Matthew 18:15-35**



What are the steps we should take when someone has sinned against us?  
v15-17

- 1.) Go to the person alone first. V15
- 2.) Speak to him or her personally. Don't send someone else and don't tell everyone else about it, as this may spoil the possibility of reconciliation.
- 3.) If the person doesn't listen, then take one or two others along. V16. Remember the purpose is reconciliation, not judgment or criticism.
- 4.) If the situation is still not settled, then it should be taken to the church. If a person has sinned and refuses to repent and be reconciled, then they are like a 'pagan' or 'tax collector'. Jesus is not saying we should hate them, but rather that we should treat them as a person who doesn't know the Lord, as that is how they are acting. We should continue to love them, to win them back to Him.

The question v21: "How many times should I forgive my brother?"

The answer: Jesus said, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus then went on and told a parable to illustrate his answer.

### **Jesus uses a parable as an illustration v22-35**

*Ask your group members to read through these verses by themselves and write down the lessons they learn from the story. Give plenty of time, and then share together what you have learnt.*

*Close with the conclusion below.*

In the parable the King forgave His servant for the huge debt he owed, and yet this servant was unwilling to forgive another man who owed him just a small amount. God has forgiven us a huge debt. In fact it cost the life of His Son. Nothing anyone does to us compares with this. If God has forgiven us so much, then we too must forgive others, not just 7 times, but every time. This is Kingdom living.