

MATTHEW 18 vs 1

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¹ **At the same time the disciples came to Jesus/** in Greek: mathetes, those doing their math... we are learning about those 12 men who originally joined Jesus in the way He was going, they were mostly from Galilee, **saying,**

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? / it seems these 12 rugged men were arguing over an adjective, a comparative: meaning greater, larger, louder, older; now were they really asking about... the ruling sphere of God the Father who rules in spirit and truth, where His influence and power is known? Did they want to know: Who is the Big Shot in eternity? Or were they really wondering in their growing little sphere of importance, who was the Big Shot down here?



² **And Jesus called a little child to Him and set him among them** / Jesus being a good Teacher, answered them,

³ **and said** / after calling a goofy little kid... from among the growing crowd gathering, probably asking the kid's name, and what grade he was in, and what was his favorite subject, and their conversation lasted a few minutes ignoring the entire group watching this kid interact with the teacher... then Jesus said,

Truly / Amen! I say to you, Except you be turned, and become as little children / who rely fully on the older folks around them, **you will not enter the kingdom of heaven** / and if they do not enter that kingdom; then the answer they sought to their question... would have no helpful relevance to them.

⁴ **Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child** / so, the Teacher thinks... there are things for those doing the math to do. Paul says, [I know how to be humbled; I know how to abound](#). Peter says: [Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God...that He may exalt you in due time](#).

the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ **And whoever receives a little child in My name** / whoever takes the hand, to accept, to welcome, to help a little child; it is in the middle voice, meaning: done for his or her benefit representing the Lord, **receives Me.**

⁶ **But whoever offends one of these little ones** / whoever deceitfully entraps, causes to stumble; scandalizes... one of these least and smallest ones,

who believes in Me, it is better for him or her / it would be more advantageous; more profitable... **that a millstone** / the massive stationary bottom stone; or the upper stone turned by a dumb ass, **it is better that a millstone were tied to his neck, and he was drowned in the depth of the sea.**

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⁷ Woe to the world for offences, for it is inevitable that offences come! / Jesus says, How terrible it is that stumbling blocks; impediments, deliberate or not causing one to fall are the way of this world;

but woe to that one / man or woman, young or old, rich or poor; **by whom the offence comes!**

⁸ Therefore if your hand or your foot offends you / why is this said? Jesus is a good Teacher; He knows: the problem is not with our hands or feet. C.S. Lewis says about this verse: not all luggage is taken on all journeys,

cut them off, and throw them from you / wow! I haven't seen any handless or footless folks have you?:

it is better for you to enter life lame or maimed / it is more helpful to be lame or missing a limb, **than have two hands or two feet to be tossed into everlasting fire.**

⁹ And if your eye offends you, pluck it out, and throw it from you: it is better for you to enter life with one eye, than have two eyes to be tossed into hell fire / for a second time, Jesus says regarding our march to eternity... it is better to have a patch over one eye, if it is that our hands and feet and eyes are the cause of our stumbling; but they are not! Unfortunately, it is our heart that needs surgery; something we cannot do; but He can. **David said, Create in me a clean heart O God! -- Psalm 51:**

¹⁰ Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones / be warned, not to think you are superior to anyone, even a child...

for I say to you, that in heaven their angels continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven / the citizens of heaven who enjoy God's favor and friendship; whom God the Father has assigned to each of the little ones, to the least ones individually... they pay great attention to God.

¹¹ For the Son of man came to save what was lost / in Greek is: **appolumi**... God so loved the world that was **perishing** --same word! What is being **destroyed**... that He sent His Son; and He came to do what He only could do. The Son of mankind came... to save us. And with our hands and feet... and heart of love toward others... that the Teacher gave us... we can help, and not hinder Him... or them.

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