

## GROWING UP FROM ADULTHOOD TO CHILDHOOD

Matthew 18:1–35

The eighteenth chapter of Matthew’s gospel account records yet another significant teaching session from the Lord Jesus Christ. Whereas he has already described the ethical *standard* of the kingdom (chs. 5–7), sent his disciples out to declare the *nearness* of the kingdom (ch. 10), and parabolically introduced novel details *about* the kingdom (ch. 13), Jesus here explains a defining characteristic of *greatness* in the kingdom—that of childlike humility. While the world clamours for status and significance through self-promotion and applauds celebrity and influence, God’s economy celebrates and rewards meekness, selfless service, submission, and sacrifice. It is after true humility that God’s people are to pursue and, in this lesson, Jesus illustrates three things that happen when they do.

What We Are Called To Pursue

vv. 1–4

What It Looks Like When We Do

1. A zealous fellowship with all believers

vv. 5–10

2. A restorative pursuit of sinning believers

vv. 12–20

3. A boundless forgiving of indebted believers

vv. 21–35

*Grow down, not up!*