

Matthew 18:1-6
God's Little Ones

A questionable question addressed

I. In the Kingdom of Heaven

A. A Contest?

B. For Prominence?

II. The Greatest Disposition

A. Childlike Humility

B. A Servant's Heart

III. Commands Respect

A. Reception Blessed

B. Deception Cursed

... by the King of the Kingdom Himself!

Children, Listen ...

1. What were Jesus' disciples arguing about?
2. Who does Jesus say are the greatest in the Kingdom?
3. What does Jesus say about those who hurt God's children?

Humble and Beloved

Jesus solves the disciple's debate over who is the greatest in the Kingdom with few words and a prop, a child. His emphasis is on the dependent humbleness of a child like the one he uses as a visual aid. In doing so he puts us all in our place – we must see our littleness to humble ourselves before God. But that's not all Jesus has to say. In practically the same breath He stresses just how precious these "little ones" of the Kingdom are in the eyes of God. To summarize, kindness to them is kindness to Christ. In contrast, those who cause them to stumble face a fate worse than a horrific death.