

Humility: Two Amazing Statements Made by the Lord Jesus

'..., verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.' –Mathew 18:3-4

Above verses represent two of the almost unbelievable, counterintuitive statements made by the Lord Jesus. Could they mean exactly what the Lord Jesus says about humility and the humble man or was the Lord exaggerating when He made these statements?

-It is worth looking at what a 'little child' is: Compare Mathew 19:13 and Luke 18:15 (Luke makes clear that the 'little children' referred to in Mathew 19:13 were infants or babies)

-and some characteristics of a little child or an infant: innocence without pretense, complete dependence on another, will not keep a grudge if hurt, etc. God seeks these attributes in our relationship to Him and indeed to others as well.

Statement 1: Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven (Mathew 18:3)

- Could this be true; could it be that if a man is not on the path of humility as seen in Christ, he cannot enter God's kingdom. Did Jesus really mean this?
- Compare above verse with John 3:3 (*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*). Why do we all know and take John 3:3 very seriously but put less weight on Mathew 18:3- both give conditions for entrance into God's kingdom

Statement 2: Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Mathew 18:4)

- This runs completely contrary to man's assessment of a thing. To man, the greatest in God's kingdom must be the one who has 'won more souls' or done 'more work' for the Lord, etc. Jesus says the greatest is the closest in nature to Himself (Jesus) as a little child.

****Humility may very well be the greatest thing God seeks in a man. Jesus says to learn this from Him (Mathew 11:29; Philippians 2:5-8). It is to the humble man that God gives grace and power for salvation.**