



THE SANCTUARY  
FELLOWSHIP







## **Matthew 18:1 (NASB)**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

- The Bible is so very clear—the main problem in my life is me: I'm a sinner.
  - Even the good I do has questionable motives (Rom. 1–3)
- To make up for it, I try to be good
  - Or at least to cover up the worse of me so you don't see it
  - I'm trusting my goodness to keep me good with God
  - Keller: "damnable good works"

## **Matthew 18:2–4 (NASB)**

2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,  
3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- Jesus sees the insecurities in his disciples—am I enough?
- Jesus sees their inability to look inside, to face themselves and to change—so he calls a little child into their circle; why?
  - He wants them to see the most redeeming trait of children—utter dependency and trust
- He wants them and us to see ourselves in this child
  - Jesus says, “this is how I see you”
  - This is not how you like to think of yourselves
  - This is how you must see yourselves and who you must aspire to be
- Your core understanding of you must be “converted” (v. 3)



- We must walk AS new creations, not to BECOME new creations
- We have to preach to ourselves our newness from the Gospel ALL THE TIME!
- The one who can change you is right in front of you! (v. 5)
- God is very serious about this kind of self-inspection and honesty and change (vv. 6–11)

- Self-revelations from 2017:
  - Life is hard—I let the sweet moments slip by because of the hard
  - Life is hard—will I get up again? Why get up again?  
Hope and Joy
  - Life is hard—God pulls no punches in calling me higher
  - God is constantly leading me into the unexpected—  
which I seek to avoid at all costs
  - The hardest, longest-lasting investment is in people
  - My sin is more deeply entrenched in me than I can comprehend
  - God's grace for me is more sufficient than I can measure
  - God is more than I could expect or hope—but rarely in the way I expect or daydream about

- Spirit—reveal me to me
- Spirit—give me childlike dependence on you