

Marks of True Greatness Matthew 18

I. Humility – 18:1-4

1. Disciples ask about greatness – 1
“Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”
2. Jesus uses a child as an illustration – 2-4
Recognize need of conversion
Change your thinking about greatness
Come in humility
A gift of grace is received in humility
Come with child-like faith
Willing to believe what is said

II. Compassion – 18:5-14

1. True humility reaches out to others – 5
Cares even for the little ones
2. Does nothing to hinder little ones – 6-7
Serious to impact the life of a child
3. This requires self-discipline – 8-9
Not just a question of your freedom
How will it affect little children or young believers
Better not to do it than to mislead others
4. God cares about these little ones – 10
We need to care about them also
5. Jesus cares about them – 11-13
This is why He came into this world – 11
Like a shepherd He cares for the lost – 12-13
He seeks those who go astray, to restore them
6. God also wants them restored – 14
It is not His will that they perish

III. Restoration – 18:15-20

1. Humble compassion seeks reconciliation
Jesus gives His church a pattern to follow
2. Seek reconciliation in private – 15
If someone hurts you go to him alone
Don't spread the wrong further than necessary
Seek reconciliation with that person
3. If no response take 1 or 2 with you – 16
Witnesses who hear what is said
4. If no response take it to the church – 17
Unity of the church is vital to maintain
5. Church discipline is important – 17-18
The aim in discipline is still restoration
6. The Lord gives His authority – 18-20
The church acts under His Lordship
Church is to seek Lord's direction in this – 19
The Lord is present when His church meets - 20

IV. Forgiveness – 18:21-35

1. Peter asks about limits in this – 21
How often should I forgive, seek reconciliation
He suggests 7 times
2. Jesus responds to Peter – 22
70 times 7 (unlimited number)
3. Those forgiven should forgive – 23-35
Jesus uses a parable to illustrate – 23-34
Like a master who forgives his servant a huge debt
The servant would not forgive a small debt
The master was angry with one who would not forgive
My Father is not pleased when you do not forgive - 35