



Unlikely King

22-Sept: A Kingdom of Humble Submission
6-7th

Series Summary: The People in Jesus' time had all of these expectations of who the Messiah would be and what kind of kingdom he should usher in. But He was not the Messiah they had in mind. Instead, Jesus and his Kingdom were better, and here is why.

Big Idea/Question: They wanted to make much of themselves. Instead, Jesus called them to a better life of humility and making much of Him.

Get Them Talking: Finish this sentence. Every Christian should be _____?

There are so many ways that we could finish this sentence. But one key answer that we must not ignore is humility. Here is why.

Matthew 18:1-5 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. **3** And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

What was wrong with the disciple's question in vs 1?

Leader Note: The disciples wanted to seek their own glory and fame. They were becoming prideful. Pride is a very subtle sin that we so often ignore. But we

shouldn't because pride keeps us from humbly submitting to God's will. We can be about making much of God or making much of ourselves, but we can not do both.

What is Jesus teaching us in this passage? What is He commanding us to do?

Why is pride so dangerous to our faith?

Leader Note: Jesus is teaching his disciples that a humble, child-like, mindset is essential to follow Jesus. The disciples were becoming prideful by believing it was all about their greatness and what they brought to the table. Instead of seeing that they were 100% dependent on God's grace, mercy and provision. Just like a child!

VIDEO TEACHING

Jesus opens up his most famous teaching (the Sermon on the Mount) by destroying the expectation of the crowd of what a blessing was. The crowd wanted to be blessed by Jesus through gifts, healing and food. But Jesus had a better blessing in mind...

Matthew 5:2-12 He said: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

They were looking for a messiah that would bless them with the blessings they desired... An easy life, no more Roman rulers, etc... instead they got something better

Blessed character traits: Blessed are the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, are merciful, and the pure in heart

Blessed difficulties: But it is even more surprising when we realize that being poor in spirit, mourning, and even persecution are blessings. How could those be blessings? Simple, **Difficulties and trials are a blessing because they drive us to**

seek out Jesus and His kingdom. Not our own glory. **In essence, difficulty humbles us and helps us see that we need Jesus desperately.**

What have been some difficult times that humbled you and forced you to rely on Jesus?

Difficult times on their own do not grow our faith. Rather it is enduring the difficult times with the right mindset and dependency on God. So...

- What is the right mindset that we must have when facing difficulty?
- How do we rely on God's strength in difficulty rather than our own?