

HUMBLE TRUST IN THE KINGDOM
(Matthew 17:22 - 18:4)

- I. MODELED in the Character of Its KING (Matt. 17:22-27)
 - A. In His DEATH and RESURRECTION (17:22-23, cf. Acts 2:22-23)
 1. He submitted to the EVIL plan of His CREATURES
 - a. Willing to be BETRAYED
 - b. Willing to be KILLED
 2. He submitted to the RIGHTEOUS plan of His FATHER
 - a. Willing to be the GRACIOUS SACRIFICE
 - b. Willing to be the RISEN LORD
 3. The disciples were “DEEPLY GRIEVED” (cf. Mk. 9:32)
 - B. In His PAYMENT of the TEMPLE TAX (17:24-27)
 1. Peter was CHALLENGED by the COLLECTORS (vv. 24-25a)
 2. Jesus EXPLAINED the PRINCIPLE (vv. 25b-27a)
 - a. Taxes are not LEVIED on a king’s SON
 - b. As the Son of GOD, He’s EXEMPT from the TEMPLE tax (cf. 12:1-8; 26)
 - c. As ADOPTED SONS of God, so are His DISCIPLES (cf. 5:9)

3. He **PAYED** the tax to not cause others to **STUMBLE** (v. 27*b*)
4. He **PROVIDED** the payment **MIRACULOUSLY**

II. **DEMANDED** in the Character of Its **CITIZENS** (Matt. 18:1-4)

A. The **SETTING** (18:1-2)

1. His disciples entered “**AT THAT TIME**”
2. They asked which of **THEM** would be **GREATEST** in the kingdom of **HEAVEN** (18:1; cf. Lk. 9:46)
3. Jesus called a **CHILD** to be an **EXAMPLE**

B. The **LESSON** (18:3-4)

1. They had to “**BECOME** like **CHILDREN**”
 - a. Required that they **CHANGE**
 - b. Necessary to **ENTER** the kingdom
2. The quality demanded was childlike **HUMILITY**
 - a. Demonstrated by **CONFIDENT TRUST**
 - b. Demonstrated by **UNCONCERN** for **STATUS**
3. “**Greatness**” is evaluated by **ATTITUDE**, not **POSITION**
 - a. Cannot be **ACHIEVED** by **AMBITION**
 - b. Can only be **ACKNOWLEDGED** by the **KING**