**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. December 17, 2023**

**The Most Difficult Challenge To Kingdom Greatness**

Matthew 18:1-14

**Key Truth:** Mankind has always desired greatness. The difficult question is by who’s standard will our greatness be measured?

**The Disciples Sought Their Version Of Greatness:**

1. Just being a disciple of Jesus wasn’t good enough.

2. The disciples were battling for the top position in Jesus’

Kingdom. Mark 9:33-34

3. Jesus used a child as an example to answer their question.

A. Greatness starts with childlike innocence.

B. Greatness starts with childlike humility.

4. Jesus gave a warning about harming children spiritually.

Matthew 18:5-6

5. Jesus spoke about the angelic protection of children.

Matthew 18:10-11

**What We Learn:**

1. Kingdom greatness begins with total humility.

2. Kingdom greatness encompasses a full reliance on Jesus.

3. Kingdom greatness involves renouncing selfishness and

begins with serving others. Luke 22:24-27, Philippians 2:3

4. Kingdom greatness refrains from tempting others to sin.

Matthew 18:7-9

5. Kingdom greatness compassionately seeks the lost, especially

children. Matthew 18:12-14, Matthew 19:13-15

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Thank God that Jesus has shown true greatness through serving and sacrificing for His people. As you pray this week ask God to help you make serving others more a part of your daily life.

**Food For Thought:**

Who would you say is the greatest athlete of all time? Who would you say is the greatest actor of all time? What about the greatest world leader?

What leads you to consider these individuals as great?

Based on our conversation about Luke 9:46-48, how does God’s definition of greatness compare to the world’s?

Based on the importance that Jesus placed on a child being the greatest, how can we lift up the importance of ministry to children in our church? What can we learn from them?

In what situations or circumstances is it most difficult for you to humble yourself and seek the Lord’s help?

How does Matthew 18:1-4 challenge us in this regard? What might it look like for you to “become like a child” in the way that you approach God?

How does Jesus’ command in verse 4 relate to Paul’s command in Romans 12:10?