

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 28, 1986

Entering the Kingdom
Matthew 18:1-4
Dale Whitehead

Introduction:

Resisted by God is the worst place to be in. Pride seeks to exalt self. **Proverbs 16:18**, if we do not humble ourselves before God we are proud and exalting ourselves. We were created by God and for God. **Deuteronomy 8:11-20**, as we are blessed and prosper we begin to move away from the Lord.

1. "Who is greater in the Kingdom of heaven?"

The Kingdom of heaven refers to where God rules. **Matthew 19:23-24**, Kingdom of God is the same as the Kingdom of heaven.

The disciples are asking who will be honored in God's Kingdom on earth. **Mark 9** and **Luke 9** show that the disciples were arguing, "who is the greatest?" Each was trying to exalt himself over the others. Jesus sets a child, a toddler, before them and says, "you must become as this child." In the disciples eyes the child is small, insufficient and unworthy.

The first step for us to become like a child is to recognize Jesus as our Savior. Millions of people rely upon their own works to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Only because of what Jesus has done do we deserve to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

The second step is to become lowly and a servant, a servant of all.