

# A CHILDLIKE CHRISTIANITY

## Matthew 18:1-4

*The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, May 23 2010, by Rev Bobby Lee at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html>.*

### May 23, 2010

The disciples' question revealed a serious misconception about the kingdom of heaven. They assumed that God's kingdom would be like any other kingdom on earth. The world sees greatness to be filled with (i) power and (ii) prestige.

But the definition that Jesus had in mind was to be great in God's eyes, whereby an adult is willing to change and humble himself like a child.

### Discuss:

- Seeking advantage is a form of insecurity. The disciples had become so pre-occupied with the organization of Jesus' earthly kingdom, they lost sight of its divine purpose. Instead of seeking a place of service, they sought positions of advantage. Would you say this is true in your life, and how can you overcome this?
  
- How easy it is to lose our eternal perspective and compete for promotions or status in the church. How hard it is to identify with the "little children" – weak and dependent people with no status or influence. Why do we put so little importance and emphasis on children?
  
- It is not wrong for believers to be industrious or ambitious, but when ambition pushes obedience and service to one side, it becomes sin. Pride or insecurity can cause us to over-value position and prestige. In God's kingdom, such motives are destructive. The only safe ambition is for Christ's kingdom, not our own advancement. Where does one encounter this type of situation?
  
- Humility is essential for service to others. Jesus taught that we ought not to rush for the best places at a feast. People today are just as eager to raise their social status, whether by being with the right people, dressing for success, or driving the right car. Whom do you try to impress? Your boss, colleagues, neighbours? Is it reaping the positive returns for you or for God?
  
- How can we humble ourselves? Some people try to give the appearance of humility in order to manipulate others. Others think that humility means putting themselves down. Truly humble people compare themselves only with Christ, realize their sinfulness, and understand their limitations. On the other hand, they also recognize their gifts and strengths and are willing to use them as Christ directs. Humility is not self-degradation; it is realistic assessment and commitment to serve.

### Prayer:

Lord, let me humble myself so that You will be Exalted. Give me the sensitivity to know when I have crossed the line and become pre-occupied with my own prestige and power instead of being the humble follower of Jesus Christ.