

Discussion Questions
Mat 17:24-18:35

The Fact that a person must enter the Kingdom of Heaven assumes he is born outside of it under the rule of Satan and that he is not naturally a heavenly citizen. The purpose of the Gospel is to show men how they may enter the kingdom, moving from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col1:13)

1. When asked "Does your teacher pay the Temple Tax" Peter says YES. How and Why does Jesus correct Peter's thinking. What is the point Jesus is making about the Temple tax when he refers to the "sons' of the King? How does Peter's confession in 16:16 make Jesus' point?

2. Fill in the blanks:
Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become _____, you will never _____ the _____ of _____.

 - A. Was 'How to enter the kingdom of heaven' the question the disciples asked?

 - B. What characteristics of a child do you think are necessary for a person to enter the kingdom of heaven?

3. What does Mat 18:1-6 reveal about the hearts of the disciples and the realities of the Kingdom? What is the point Jesus is making in using children as an illustration? What do these passages teach us about Humility?

4. In what way does Romans 14:15, 21 and Romans 15:1-2 speak of causing "new Christians" who are babes in Christ (weaker brethren) to stumble? (When Jesus speaks of "little ones," He might include those who are young in Christ as well as those who are young in years.)

5. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Mat 18:10-14). What actions does the shepherd take in this parable when one of his sheep is lost? How does this parable impact your view of God and your view of the members of God's Kingdom?

6. In light of the last question, what are members of the Kingdom to do when one of God's sheep goes astray? List the steps given in verses 15-20.
 - A. First Step (v15)

 - B. Second Step (v16)

 - C. Third Step (v17)

 - D. What is objective of these actions?

7. Taking the parable of Matthew 18:23-34 to apply to Peter's question and our attitude to others' sins against us, explain what each of the following represents:
 - A. The King

 - B. The Reckoning Day

 - C. The Man "To Be Sold"

 - D. The Man Who Owed Ten Thousand Talents

 - E. The "Fellow Servant" Cast into Prison

 - F. The Words of Matthew 18:32-34

8. What is the Will of the Father (see 18:14)? Considering the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the will of the Father, what is the goal of the process laid out in 18:14-17?

9. (Challenge) Does Matthew 18:35 mean what it says? If so, what does this mean to you? (Remember that Jesus gave this same warning in too many places for us to give it some forced explanation.)