Matthew 18 • Lessons in Greatness and Forgiveness

1. (v.1) Even what seems good in and of itself, such as **service** to God, can become corrupted by the original sin of **pride**.
2. (v.2-6) Spiritual greatness is embodied in not just our personal **attitude** but in supporting and fostering the same **attitude** in others.
3. (v.7-10) Just as personal **faithfulness** breeds faithfulness among others, so personal **sinfulness** gives rise to sin among others.
4. (v.11-14) It is the Good Shepherd’s intention to protect and spiritually deliver literal children and believers in the character of children because…
	1. They are examples of true **greatness**. (v.4)
	2. They represent **Christ**. (v.5)
	3. The **angels** represent them before the Father. (v.10)
	4. Christ wants to **save** them. (v.11)
	5. It is the will of the **Father** that they be **saved**. (v.14)
5. (v.15-20) Believers have a responsibility to hold each other accountable in order to engender **faithfulness** and mitigate the effects of **faithlessness**.
6. (v.21-35) Holding another spiritually **accountable** is always done with an eye on our own spiritual record of **accountability**.

***Overall Application***: Spiritual greatness from God’s point of view is characterized by…

* Personal **faithfulness** that engenders the same in others.
* The desire to deal with adversity in the spirit of **love**.
* Dealing with others as **Christ** has dealt with us.