

## Luke 9:46-48 **Which will be greatest?**

<sup>46</sup> Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. <sup>47</sup> And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, <sup>48</sup> and said to them, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### When they came into the house in Capernaum

- ✚ Jesus asked what they had been disputing on the road. [Mark 9:33]
- ✧ They kept silent, because on the road they had disputed over who would be greatest. [Mark 9:34]

### Who is greatest in Kingdom of Heaven? [Matthew 18:1, Mark 9:33-35, Luke 9:46-48, 22:24-26]

- ✚ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all. [Mark 9:35]
- ✚ Greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven is not something to seek or strive for.
  - ✧ Greatness is doing and teaching obedience to sayings of Jesus. [Matthew 5:19]
  - ✧ Greatness is a reward for humble service. [Matthew 18:1-14, 20:25-28, 23:11, Mark 9:33-35, 10:42-45, Luke 9:46-48, 22:24-26]
  - ✧ Greatness is not an exalted position of honor, but the love God holds for a humble and contrite heart of servitude. [Psalm 34:18, 51:17, 57:15, Isaiah 66:1-2]
  - ✧ For he who is least among you all will be great." [Luke 9:48]

### Humble little child is Example

- ✚ Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, held him in His arms, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become **as little children**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever **humbles himself as this little child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me." [Matthew 18:2-4]
- ✚ Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me." [Mark 9:37, Luke 9:48]
  - ✧ The phrase "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven," might cause one to conjure up all sorts of ideas of childish behavior that might be imagined as required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - ✧ However Jesus clarified the statement with the following line, "Therefore **whoever humbles himself as this little child** is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - ✧ Now we see that the message has an entirely different meaning.
    - ✧ It is not childishness that is important, but meek humbleness that is required.
    - ✧ God will not allow arrogant pride to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - ✧ One does not enter the Kingdom of Heaven by way of some great personal accomplishments or dazzling piety.
  - ✧ One enters the Kingdom of Heaven based only on what God has done, so all glory goes to the Father through Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.
  - ✧ God has a way to remove all pride before entry into the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - ✧ At the Judgment Seat of Christ, All we have done will be revealed, both the good and the bad. [Matthew 10:26, Mark 4:22, Luke 12:2, Romans 2:1-16, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Hebrews 4:12-13]
  - ✧ We will each be judged openly according to what we have done. [Matthew 16:27]
  - ✧ When our lives have been exposed openly for all to see, Pride will be gone, and we will with humble gratitude find ourselves in the Kingdom of Heaven only by the Grace and mercy of God through Christ Jesus. [Acts 15:11, Ephesians 2:4-8]

