

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Care in the Community* Matthew 18:1-14

**Summary:** Greatness in Christ's community comes by becoming small in your own estimation. Think less of yourself and care more for the Church – like Christ does.

### **1. Humble yourself like a child (vv. 1-4)**

- Remind yourself of the context leading up to these verses. Based on the context, why were the disciples coming to Jesus?
- How does Jesus correct the thinking of these disciples?
- Why is the picture of “humility” so important to a follower of Christ?
- Considering this, what does spiritual leadership look like?
- What does this look like as an elder or a deacon? Or as a Bible leader? Or as a youth leader? Or as the teacher of a Children's Bible Class?

### **2. Keep Others Away from Sin (vv. 5-9)**

- Is there a connection in verse 5 between humbleness and “receiving Christ”?
- Discuss the imagery in verses 6 through 10 to grasp the seriousness of these passages.
- Remember the context — that is, the disciples be directed toward humbleness. Then look at verse 7 and think about the comparison between the world's stumbling blocks (that are inevitable) and the man through whom the stumbling blocks come. What is the warning to the disciples?
- If you are in a position of trust (or leadership) within the Church, why are you holding that position? Why do you do it?
- Contemplate how serious sin is, specifically if you are a leader within the Church.

### **3. Prize and Pursue Others (vv. 10-14)**

- Based on these verses, how does God view those who received Him as little children?
- What can this look like? Read James 2:1-7 for an example. Can we do this? How?
- How can you care for the church in the spirit of that which is described in verses 12 through 14?