

King and Messiah Week 24

Describe a time when you needed a community of people to complete a task, endure a trial, or inspire you.

Read Matthew 18:1-4

We all know the disciples' question in verse 1 was misguided, but why? What makes it counter to the Christian life? (Philippians 2:1-11 may help)

Jesus uses a child in his answer. What two steps do the disciples need to take and what is it about children they need to emulate?

What is the difference between having childlike faith and being immature in your faith?

Read Matthew 18:5-9

Why do you think Jesus uses such radical language to talk about sin?

How could memorizing and meditating on a chapter like Psalm 100 keep us from sin?

Read Matthew 18:10-14

What does the parable of the sheep tell us about God's devoted care?

How has God demonstrated this care in Scripture and in your life?

Read Matthew 18:15-20

What principles do you see in these verses that empower us to resolve problems within the community of believers?

What should the believing community's ultimate goal be in each and every one of these steps?

Read Matthew 18:21-35

What is the main point of Jesus' parable?

If we don't demonstrate mercy and forgiveness to others, how would that alert us to having an inadequate grasp of the gospel?

How does a biblical worldview (particularly Matthew 18) contend against a culture that values independence?

Other observations/questions/reflections on the text: