

**REVIEW**

- The Greatest Kingdom is the Kingdom of Heaven
- The Greatest Kingdom has the Greatest King – King Jesus!
- The Greatest King gives the Greatest Commandment – Love God and Love Others

**THIS WEEK: THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM**

The greatest in the Kingdom are those who *seek, hear, see* and *choose to be* what King Jesus says is the greatest in his Kingdom.

**SEEK, HEAR AND SEE THE KINGDOM**

**Matthew 13:10-17 (NIV)** - The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

The Kingdom is like...

**Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)** - “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

**Matthew 13:3-9 (NIV)** - “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

**Matthew 13:24-30 (NIV)** - Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

**CHOOSE TO BE THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM**

## Repentant, Trusting, Faithful and Believing

**Matthew 18:1-4 (NLT)** - About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

## Humble Servant

**Matthew 23:11-12 (NIV)** - The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

**John 13:1-17 (NIV)** - It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

## A Disciple in the Kingdom

**Matthew 13:52 (NIV)** - He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

## QUESTIONS:

1. Do you actively seek out learning and living in the Kingdom? If so, how? If not, why not?
2. When reading the parable of the soils, which soil do you relate to most in your life right now and why?
3. Jesus says there will be weeds amongst the wheat in his Kingdom. How have you experienced that?
4. The greatest in the Kingdom are faithful and trusting of God like little children. Where do you struggle to be faithful and trusting of God?
5. The greatest in the Kingdom is a humble servant. In what areas of your life do you serve? In what areas do you exalt yourself instead of God or others?
6. The greatest in the Kingdom is a disciple in the Kingdom who represents the Kingdom. How are you being a disciple in the Kingdom? What is a next step you can take towards becoming or growing as a disciple?