

~ *SERVE US - OR - SERVICE?* ~

Matthew 18:7-14

INTRODUCTION: As we continue through Matthew 18 we must keep in mind the backdrop of the disciples question to Jesus – “Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” – as well as the “little child” that Jesus has brought into their midst to illustrate His answer. The “little child” we have seen is an illustration of an individual who believes in Jesus, and in particular a new or weak believer – one who would be very vulnerable. The disciples’ worldly view and desire for greatness and jockeying for position, power, and prominence in Christ’s Kingdom was indeed an offense and a stumbling block and would be for any new or weak believer. We saw last time that their question should have been, “How can we best serve You and others in Your Kingdom?” Instead it seems that they wanted the most important positions so that they would be the ones served – they would wield the authority – they would be prominent. How offensive this attitude must have been to the meek and gentle Savior Who did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom. In verses 7-14 Jesus is still answering the disciples’ question and He is doing it by teaching – by rebuking – by exhorting – and encouraging by example. The question comes to each one of us, especially to those of us who have positions of leadership in the church – “Is there anything about my life and attitude that could be a stumbling block for young or weak believers in our midst?”

A. THE _____ MUST BE HEEDED – v. 7

“WOE TO THE WORLD...BUT WOE TO THAT MAN...”

1. THE WOE OF _____

2. THE WOE OF _____

B. THE _____ MUST BE OBEYED – vs. 8-9

“CUT IT OFF AND CAST IT FROM YOU...”

C. THE _____ MUST BE FOLLOWED – vs. 10-14

1. THE _____ EXAMPLE – v. 10

“...IN HEAVEN THEIR ANGELS...”

2. THE _____ EXAMPLE – v. 11

“...THE SON OF MAN HAS COME...”

3. THE _____ EXAMPLE – vs. 12-14

“...YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN...”

CONCLUSION: