"Greatest in the kingdom of God"
Matthew 18:1-9

Introduction:
A. Who then is greatest in the kingdom of God?
   1. Not necessarily best known or most influential among brethren.
   2. Not necessarily greatest secular successes. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26 ff.)
   3. Not necessarily best “achievers”.
   5. Not necessarily most ambitious.
B. Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of God?
   1. Who are they?
   2. What are their traits?

Discussion:
I. They Are the Converted. (v. 3).
   A. What needs converting?
      1. Attitudes and beliefs.
      2. Relationships.
      3. Priorities and goals.
   B. What changes take place in conversion - depends.
      1. Pagan (1 Thess. 1:9) changes more than Jew.
      3. Immoral (1 Cor. 6:9-11) more than moral (Acts 10).
      5. Yet, all most be completely converted to the will of God.

II. They Are the Humble. (v. 4 cf. 1 Pet. 5:5).
   A. God resists the proud. (cf. Prov. 8:13).
      5. Pride disqualifies elders. (1 Tim. 3:6).
      6. Pride seeks vengeance
   B. God gives grace to the humble.
      1. Humbly submits to God and Christ (1 Pet. 5:6; Phil 2:3-11).

III. They Are the Honorable. (vs. 6-9)
   A. They are not the cause of scandal or offense.
      1. “Offend” from skandalizo, to bend a sapling for a snare, hence to cause to stumble (Strong)
      2. English word “scandalize” is from this word.
   B. Scandals come. (v.7).
   C. Scandal is serious.
      1. To the one causing it. (v. 6-7).
      2. To those overcome by it. (v. 8-9).
   D. Honorable, non-scandalous, conduct to characterize Christians.

Conclusion:
A. Be converted, humble and honorable - be great.
B. True greatness does not recognize itself.
C. True greatness is humble enough to submit.