



Title: A Successful Candidate Must Be...

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Series: Matthew

Text: Matthew 18

Synopsis: If you've ever read through a job description, you know that the employer will list qualifications necessary for a person to be considered as a potential candidate. These qualifications are both necessary for success at the job and reflect the values of the organization. It usually reads something like, "A successful candidate must be loyal, hard working, experienced, etc."

So what are the qualifications for a successful candidate in the kingdom of heaven? This was the disciples question to Jesus. "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" they asked. In other words, "What qualities are you looking for in the most successful candidate?"

Jesus' answer certainly was not what they were looking for then, and it is not what we are looking for today. He wasn't looking for the brightest and the best, the most beautiful and talented, or the wealthy and powerful.

Jesus job description simply reads, "A successful candidate must be forgiving." And Jesus wants it to be clear that any applicant that does not possess this quality need not apply.