

“Becoming Like Children”

Matthew 18:1-6

Matthew 18:1 ESV

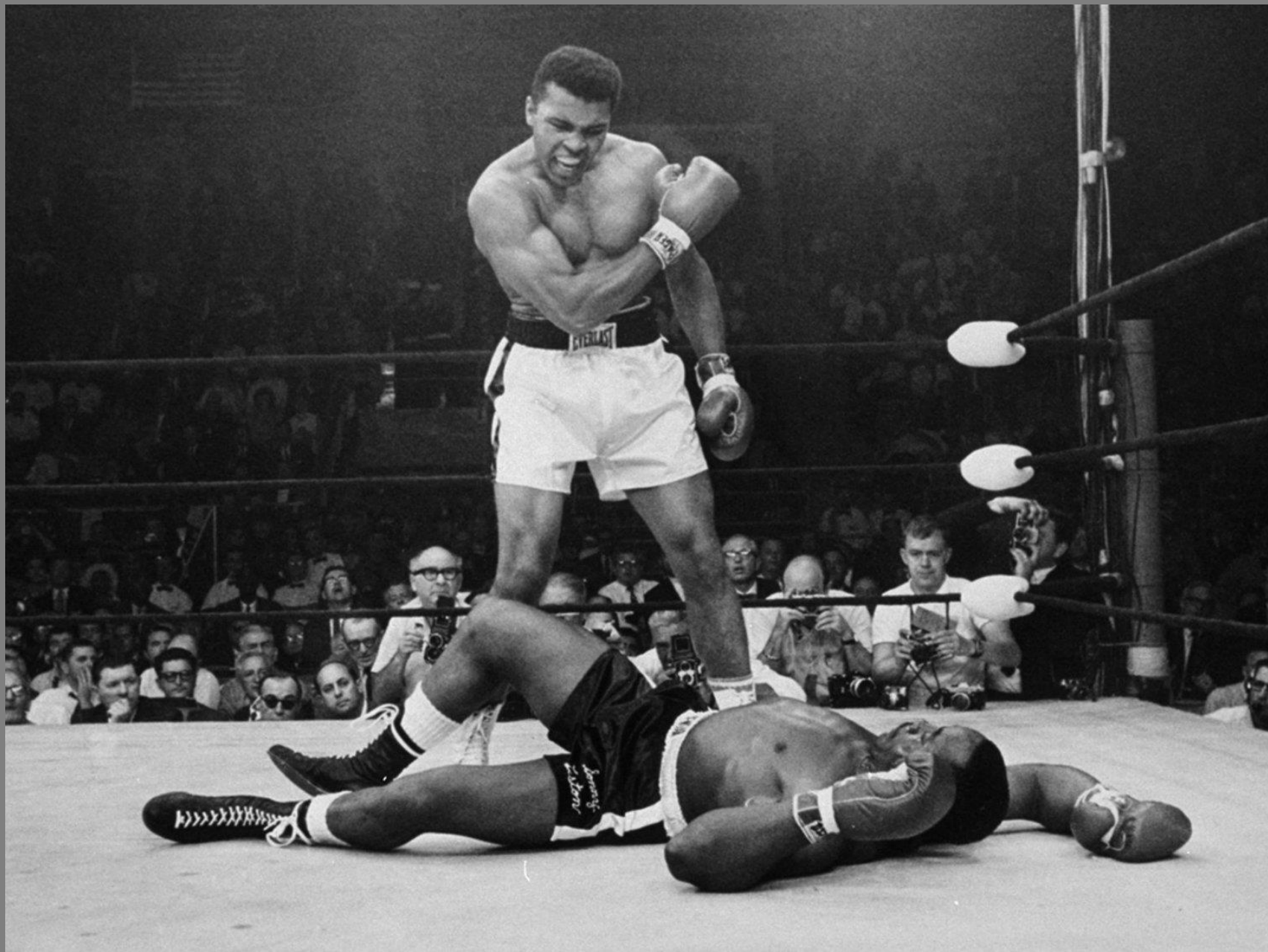
At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Matthew 17:22–23 ESV

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

Problem:

The human heart wants greatness at all cost, without regard to Jesus.



The law of the world:

If you achieve a certain goal,

THEN you are great.

Matthew 16:24 ESV

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Main Point:

Greatness in God's eyes is humble
dependence on Jesus.

1st Lesson about our salvation-

Humble dependence on God is a willingness to take a position of insignificance.

- Part of repentance is a recognition of our own failings (sins) before God.

Philippians 2:5–8 ESV

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2nd Lesson about our salvation-

Our dependence on God reveals itself in how we welcome and serve other believers.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Matthew 10:42 ESV

“And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

Matthew 25:40 ESV

And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’