

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 18:

vs. 1-9:

The disciples, seeking greatness, asked Jesus who the greatest would be. Jesus demonstrated and taught them that in God's Kingdom, one must be humble and trusting, just as a child. We should willingly receive all such children for the sake of Jesus, and in so doing, we welcome Jesus and His love.

Jesus speaks of those who cause little ones to do wrong or sin. They will be severely punished because of their deed. He warns them that if it is between removing an part of the body you can't control or sinning, then you better remove that part. Otherwise you will be condemned forever.

vs. 10-14:

Jesus speaks and warns them of slighting, or hurting in any way a child, for they have an angel who is always before God watching over them.

Jesus reminds them of the love that a shepherd has, leaving the 99 to search for one that is lost. Upon finding that lamb, he rejoices. God is like that shepherd and does not want to see any of His children to become lost.

vs. 15-20:

Jesus explains how people should handle it, when someone sins against them. They are not to talk to anyone else about it! They are to go to that person and get things worked out. If the person refuses to apologize and make things right, they are then to take 1 or 2 others along as witnesses. If that doesn't work, then they are to bring it before the Church. The Church is to expel them until they repent.

Jesus goes on to tell them that they will speak the will of God and that what they teach goes. For what they will be teaching on earth, is what God would have them to teach.

Jesus shows how unity will get things done and He will be with those who are gathered in His name, no matter how few they be.

vs. 21-35:

Peter then inquires concerning forgiveness. Jesus tells a parable of a man who was forgiven of a several million dollar debt by his master. Because of his unwillingness to forgive another workers debt, of a few dollars, his master restored the million dollar debt. In the same way, Jesus teaches, God will only forgive us, if we forgive others!

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 18:

1. Who must we be like, to enter the kingdom of heaven?
2. Who will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?
3. To whom, does Jesus say woe, in verse 7?
4. What does a man do if one of his sheep wanders off?
5. What is the first thing you should do, if someone sins against you?
6. What is the last resort, for one who will not repent for sinning against another?
7. When is Jesus present with His disciples? (see vs 20)
8. How many times did Jesus tell Peter to forgive?
9. What did the servant's master do to his servant in verse 27?
10. How did the forgiven servant, treat a fellow servant who owed him?
11. What did the other servants do?
12. What did the mast do?

BONUS:

1. Do Christians apply verses 3 and 4, today? Explain.
2. List the steps to be taken when someone sins against you. Then list what you usually do. Compare.
3. How does our not forgiving others, affect us?

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BONUS

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