



Matthew 18

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:20

PREVIEW: In Matthew 18, we'll learn about humility through the example of a little child and about honesty in dealing with problems in a biblical manner. We'll also learn about forgiveness—how much we've been forgiven and how we should forgive others.

Matthew 18 Outline:

Instruction about Humility - Read Matthew 18:1-5

Punishment of Offenders - Read Matthew 18:6-11

Parable of the Lost Sheep - Read Matthew 18:12-14

The Offended Brother - Read Matthew 18:15-20

Instruction about Forgiveness - Read Matthew 18:16-35

Instruction About Humility - Read Matthew 18:1-5

1. According to Luke 9:46, the disciples were actually disputing when they asked Jesus this question. What question do the disciples ask Jesus? What do they want to know (v. 1)?



2. What illustration does Jesus use to answer their question and address the disciples' dispute amongst each other (vv. 2-5)?

3. Jesus listed two steps required for entrance to the kingdom. What are they (v. 3)? What does each step refer to?

4. What is the specific answer Jesus gives to the disciples' question (v. 4)?

5. What does the word "humble" mean? What does it mean to humble yourself?

6. What becomes of the person who humbles themselves before Jesus Christ? (See Matthew 23:13, James 4:6, and Luke 18:9-14.)

Punishment of Offenders - Read Matthew 18:6-11

7. A millstone was a very large stone weighing hundreds of pounds; it was used to grind grain into flour. Jesus used a graphic illustration containing a millstone. What did he say having a millstone hung around your neck and being drowned in the depths of the sea would be better than doing (v. 6)?

8. In this context, an offense is something that stumbles others in their faith, deceiving them and leading them astray. Jesus said, “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come...” Why do you want to ensure that offenses are not coming from you and your life (v. 7)? (See Matthew 26:24, 27:4-5.)

9. Jesus uses the hand, foot, and eye as metaphors for things that cause you to sin. What does He imply you should do with those things that cause you to sin (vv. 8-9)?

10. Why should a person deal with sin in such a radical way? (See Deuteronomy 31:17-18, Isaiah 59:2, Micah 3:4, and Revelation 21:15.)

11. The concept of guardian angels comes from Matthew 18:10. What do the angels always see (v. 10)? What should we not do to one of these little ones?



12. Jesus mentions the reason that He, the Son of Man, came. What was that reason (v. 11)?

Parable of the Lost Sheep - Read Matthew 18:12-14

13. Jesus gives this parable to demonstrate the importance of “one of these little ones” (v. 14). Who is the little one He is referring to in the parable? How important to the man is the little one that has strayed (vv. 12-13)?

14. Why does the man rejoice (v. 13-14)?

15. Since the Father so cares for each little one, how important should children’s ministry and child evangelism be to us? (See also Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4.)

The Offended Brother - Read Matthew 18:15-20

16. In what case should you go and tell your brother his fault (v. 15)? (See also Galatians 6:1.)



17. When should you mention the sin of your brother to others (v. 16)?

18. What should you do if the brother refuses to hear you and your witnesses (v. 17)?

19. What should you do if the brother refuses to listen to the church (v. 17)? (See also Ephesians 5:11, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 Timothy 3:2-5, and 2 John 1:10-11.)

20. Binding and loosing speak of the authority the church has in dealing with matters where sin is flagrantly, consistently, and obnoxiously practiced. Read 1 Corinthians 5. What did the church need to address and why? (See 1 Corinthians 5:1-6.) What did the church need to do (See 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.)?

21. Jesus gave authority to His disciples. What would be done for them if they agreed concerning anything (v. 19)?

22. Why is it important for you to pray with others (v. 20)?



Instruction About Forgiveness - Read Matthew 18:16-35

23. Jesus used an illustration of a master and two different servants to instruct His disciples about forgiveness. How much did the first servant owe the master (v. 24)? How much did the second servant owe the first servant (v. 28)?

24. What was the master going to do to the servant who couldn't pay him the ten thousand talents (v. 25)?

25. What changed the mind of the master and caused him to forgive that servant's debt (v.26)? What character quality is mentioned about the master (v. 27)?

26. Although the first servant was just treated with compassion and was forgiven his tremendous debt, what does he do to his fellow servant (v. 28)?

27. What does the second servant do to the first servant (v. 29)?



28. What was the response of the first servant to the second servant's plea for mercy (v. 30)?

29. Some of the other servants see this event take place between these two servants (v. 31) and tell it to the master. What was the master's response to the first servant (vv. 32-33)?

30. What does the master do with the unforgiving, first servant (v. 34)?

31. How could the unforgiving, first servant ever expect to pay off his debt while he is incarcerated with the torturers?

32. How should we forgive others who have wronged us and owe us a debt? (See Matthew 6:12, Ephesians 4:32, and Colossians 3:12-13.)

33. What are the dangers of not forgiving those who have wronged us and owe us a debt (v. 35)? (See also Matthew 6:14-15.)