

JESUS TEACHES FORGIVENESS

Quote:

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3-4

Matthew 18 - Bible Marking

Matthew 18:3 - **“converted”** - means to turn/ turn round. ie turn from their pompousness.

“Ye shall not enter” - Unless they changed, it would not be a matter as to who would be the greatest, but whether they would even get in.

“Humble himself” - James 4:6,10 Isaiah 57:15; Job 22:29.

“Little children” - see the child-like qualities that are needed - 1 Pet 2:2; 1 Cor 14:20; Psa 131:2

“Woe unto the world” - Trouble came to the Jewish world because of its rejection of Christ and his disciples (Matt 23:34-36).

“It must needs be” - The rejection of Christ was in accordance with the Divine purpose - Acts 2:23.

“Woe to that man by whom the offence cometh” - Judas was "the man" responsible for "the" offence - Matt 26:24.

“Despise not” - See Rom 14:1,3,10; 1 Cor 8:9.

“These little ones” - ie babes in Christ - see v6.

“Their angels” - Individual angels supervise the lives of individual saints. See Gen 48:16; Exod 23:20; Psa 34:7; Ecc 5:6; 1 Cor 11:10; Luke 15:10. It appears, the angels overshadow the lives of saints (see Heb 1:14) on the behalf of the Father and the Son.

Matthew 18:12 - **“a man”** - ie the shepherd - Christ - Ezek 34:11-16,23. Lk 19:10; Mk 6:34; Matt 15:24.

Matthew 18 - Chapter Breakdown

1. **Who Is the Greatest? A Lesson in Humility** - Matthew 18:1-6 (See Mk 9:33-41; Lk 9:46-50)
2. **Woe to the World** - Matthew 18:7
3. **Beware of Offending** - Matthew 18:8-9 (See Mk 9:42-50)
4. **The Angels Overlook the saints** - Matthew 18:10-11
5. **Parable of the Sheep that went astray** - Matthew 18:12-14 (Shows Christ did all he could to save the lost). Background: Psalm 119:176
6. **On Dealing with Trespasses** - Matthew 18:15-18
7. **Make it a Matter of Prayer** - Matthew 18:19-20
8. **How oft shall I forgive** - Matthew 18:21-22
9. **The Unforgiving Debtor** - Matthew 18:23-35

“one of them be gone astray” - ie through no fault of the shepherd (cp Lk 15:4).

Contrast Between The Parables of the Lost Sheep:

(mark above Matthew 18 and put a link in Luke 15 to this table)

Matthew 18:12-14	Luke 15:2-7
Parable given to disciples	Parable given to the Pharisees and Scribes (the faithless shepherds of the day) (vv2-3)
The lost sheep: Went astray (v12) - not the fault of the shepherd.	The lost sheep: Lost through the actions of the shepherd - “if he lose one of them” (v4)
This shepherd: Christ - “a man” (v12) - Matt 15:24 - “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel”; Lk 19:10; Mk 6:34	The shepherd: “which man of you” (v4) - ie those to whom he spoke - Ezek 34:1-3, 6)
Lost sheep is sought in the mountains (v12)	No location for the search given.
Not described.	The recovered sheep is laid on his shoulders (care is emphasised) (v5)
Lost sheep are called “little ones” (v14)	The Lost sheep are called sinners (v7)

Matthew 18:24 - **“ten thousand talents”** - In those days men earned a penny a day. There are 6000 pennies in a talent. Therefore this is the equivalent of 30000 years labour . An amount impossible to pay.

Matthew 18:27 - **“compassion”** - Means ‘to have the bowels yearn’, ‘to pity’. All of the 11 other uses are of Christ showing compassion.

Matthew 18:33 - **“even as I had pity on thee”** - We should reflect the love and compassion we have received from Yahweh. See Matt 5:44-45; 6:12; Lk 6:35-36; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13.