

Matthew 18

Chapter 18 of 28 · 35 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Who Is the Greatest?

¹ At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

² And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

³ 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.

⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Temptations to Sin

⁶ But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷ Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

⁸ Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

⁹ And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?

13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

If Your Brother Sins Against You

15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

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

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Angel — ἄγγελος (Angelos)

Angel, messenger

The Greek **angelos** (ἄγγελος) means angel or messenger. Angels announced Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-14), ministered to Him (Matthew 4:11), and will accompany His return (Matthew 25:31).

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Forgive — ἀφίημι (Aphiemi)

To send away, forgive, release

The Greek **aphiemi** (ἀφίημι) means to send away or release—canceling a debt or dismissing an offense. Jesus taught us to pray 'forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' (Matthew 6:12).

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Kingdom — βασιλεία (Basileia)

Kingdom, reign

The Greek **basileia** (βασιλεία) means kingdom—both the realm ruled and the exercise of royal authority. The 'kingdom of God' is central to Jesus' teaching, representing God's saving rule breaking into history.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Save — σωζω (Sozo)

To save, deliver, heal

The Greek **sozo** (σωζω) means to save—deliverance from sin, death, and judgment. 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The word also encompasses physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

Matthew 18:1 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 23:11; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3. **Kingdom:** Matthew 7:21

Matthew 18:2 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 3:7

Matthew 18:3 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 131:2; Luke 13:24; Acts 3:19; 28:27; 1 Corinthians 14:20; 1 Peter 2:2. **Kingdom:** Matthew 5:20; 19:14; John 3:3; 3:5

Matthew 18:4 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 57:15; Mark 10:43; Luke 9:48; 14:11; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5. **Kingdom:** Matthew 18:1

Matthew 18:5 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 25:40; Mark 9:37; John 13:20; Galatians 4:14

Matthew 18:6 **Faith:** Mark 9:42. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 18:10; 18:14; Psalms 105:15; Zechariah 2:8; 13:7; Acts 9:5; Romans 14:21

Matthew 18:7

Parallel theme: Matthew 26:24; Mark 13:7; Luke 17:1; John 17:12; Acts 1:16; 1 Corinthians 11:19; 1 Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:5; 2:8; Jude 1:4

Matthew 18:8 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 18:31; Luke 14:33; Romans 13:12; Revelation 14:10; 20:15; 21:8. **Eternal Life:** Matthew 25:41; 25:46; Isaiah 33:14

Matthew 18:9 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 5:22; 5:29; 18:8; Acts 14:22; Revelation 21:27

Matthew 18:10 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 2:19; 18:6; 18:14; 24:31; Psalms 34:7; 91:11; Luke 16:22; Hebrews 1:14

Matthew 18:12 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 12:11; 21:28; Psalms 119:176; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 50:6; Ezekiel 34:6; 34:12; 34:16; 34:28; 1 Peter 2:25

Matthew 18:13 **Parallel theme:** Zephaniah 3:17; James 2:13

Matthew 18:14

Parallel theme: Isaiah 40:11; Zechariah 13:7; John 17:12; 21:15; 2 Peter 3:9

Matthew 18:15 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 18:35; Leviticus 19:17; Psalms 141:5; Proverbs 11:30; Romans 12:21; Galatians 6:1; Colossians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:15; 1 Peter 3:1

Matthew 18:16

Witness: Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; 1 Kings 21:13; 1 Timothy 5:19. **Word:** John 8:17; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Hebrews 10:28

Matthew 18:17 **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 11:12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6

Matthew 18:18 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 16:19; John 20:23; 2 Corinthians 2:10

Matthew 18:19 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 7:7; 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 15:7; 15:16; 16:23; Acts 1:14; 12:5; Philippians 1:19; 1 John 3:22

Matthew 18:20

Parallel theme: Matthew 28:20; Genesis 49:10; Exodus 20:24; Zechariah 2:5; John 20:19; 20:26; 1 Corinthians 5:4; Philemon 1:2; Revelation 2:1; 21:3

Matthew 18:21 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 18:15

Matthew 18:22

Parallel theme: Genesis 4:24; Isaiah 55:7; Micah 7:19; Mark 11:25; Romans 12:21; Ephesians 4:26; Colossians 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:8

Matthew 18:23 **Kingdom:** Matthew 3:2; 13:24; 13:47. **Parallel theme:** Romans 14:12

Matthew 18:24 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 38:4

Matthew 18:25

Parallel theme: Leviticus 25:39; Nehemiah 5:5; 5:8; Luke 7:42. **References Lord:** 2 Kings 4:1

Matthew 18:26 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 18:29; Luke 7:43. **Worship:** Matthew 8:2

Matthew 18:27 **References Lord:** Psalms 86:15; 145:8. **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 9:17; Hosea 11:8

Matthew 18:28 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 20:2; Deuteronomy 15:2; Ezekiel 45:9

Matthew 18:29 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 6:12; 18:26

Matthew 18:31 **Parallel theme:** Mark 3:5; Romans 12:15; Hebrews 13:3

Matthew 18:32 **Parallel theme:** Romans 3:19. **Evil:** Matthew 25:26; Luke 19:22

Matthew 18:33 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 6:12; Colossians 3:13

Matthew 18:34 **Parallel theme:** James 2:13

Matthew 18:35 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 6:12; Proverbs 21:2; 21:13; Jeremiah 3:10; Zechariah 7:12; Mark 11:25; Luke 16:15; James 2:13; 3:14; Revelation 2:23

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