

Matthew 18:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus' warning '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' prohibits despising believers ('little ones' representing humble disciples, v. 4). The phrase 'their angels do always behold the face of my Father' suggests angelic guardianship and intimate access to God. This reveals how precious humble believers are to God—despising them risks divine judgment. God values those the world overlooks.

Historical Context

The term 'little ones' refers to Jesus' humble followers, not necessarily children (though includes them). The reference to angels continuously beholding God's face suggests both guardianship and the Father's attentive care for His children. This counters the disciples' status-seeking by emphasizing God's special concern for the humble and vulnerable.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Who are the 'little ones' you might be tempted to despise or overlook?
2. How does knowing God values humble believers shape your treatment of others?

Interlinear Text

Ὅρατε μὴ καταφρονήσητε ἑνὸς τοῦ μικρῶν τούτων·
Take heed not that ye despise one which little ones of these
G3708 G3361 G2706 G1520 G3588 G3398 G5130

λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι τοῦ ἄγγελοι αὐτῶν ἐν οὐρανοῖς
I say for unto you That which angels their in heaven
G3004 G1063 G5213 G3754 G3588 G32 G846 G1722 G3772

διὰ παντὸς βλέπουσιν τοῦ πρόσωπον τοῦ πατρός
do always behold which the face which Father
G1223 G3956 G991 G3588 G4383 G3588 G3962

μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς
of my which in heaven
G3450 G3588 G1722 G3772

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:11 (Parallel theme): For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Hebrews 1:14 (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Psalms 34:7 (Parallel theme): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Luke 16:22 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

Matthew 24:31 (Parallel theme): And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 2:19 (Parallel theme): But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Matthew 2:13 (Parallel theme): And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Matthew 18:6 (Parallel theme): 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.

Matthew 18:14 (Parallel theme): Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 1:20 (Parallel theme): But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.