

Matthew 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Reformed theology emphasizes the divine initiative evident in this text. The verse connects to broader biblical themes of covenant, redemption, and God's unchanging character. Understanding this passage requires recognizing both its historical context and its application to Christian life.

Historical Context

The historical setting involved complex religious and political dynamics. Jewish leaders maintained authority through Roman tolerance while common people sought deliverance. Jesus' teaching addressed both immediate concerns and eternal truths.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this passage challenge your understanding of God's character?
2. What practical application does this truth have in your daily walk?
3. How should this verse shape your priorities and decisions?

Interlinear Text

Διὰ τοῦτο ὡμοιώθη ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν
Therefore G5124 likened G3588 is the kingdom G3588 of heaven
G1223 G3666 G932 G3772

ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ ὃς ἡθέλησεν συνάραι λόγον μετὰ
unto a certain king which would take account of
G444 G935 G3739 G2309 G4868 G3056 G3326

τῶν δούλων αὐτοῦ
G3588 servants G846
G1401

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:24 (Kingdom): Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Romans 14:12 (Parallel theme): So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Matthew 13:47 (Kingdom): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

Matthew 3:2 (Kingdom): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.