

## Matthew Chapter 18

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3 Topics, all review: [Humility](#) – [Honesty](#) – [Forgiveness](#).

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V: 1 At the same time: they are still in Capernaum.

- That should be easy! **God is the greatest!**
- It's hard to believe that they would even bring that question to Jesus, talk about asking the wrong guy a question like that!
- It would have just thrown a name out there to throw them all off – Andrew sounds good to me... 😊
- Jesus isn't just answering a question, but He's settling an argument. He's also demonstrating His omniscience.

**Mark 9:33** “And He came to Capernaum: and being in the house He asked them, what was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?”

- Aren't you glad that as your pastor I'm not omniscient? Aren't you glad that after you've come in and gotten comfy I don't walk up to one of you men and ask you: “so what were you and your wife arguing about on the way to church tonight?” Or, “when you were on your back porch last night thinking about.... Where were you headed with that?”

Nicolaitans: Ephesus

**Revelation 2:6** “But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

**1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

**Isaiah 53:6** “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;...”

V: 2 Jesus uses a little child as the example, this of course meant that there were children about Him to be used this way.

**Mark 10:14** “... suffer the little children come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

V: 3 The answer is: we should be more concerned with actually getting in as opposed to what position of honor we might occupy.

- “Converted”, G: 4762 “strepso”, to turn, turn away from, to be changed, transformed.

**John 3:3** “Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**John 3:6** “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

We're called to be:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

- Like little children.

**Psalms 131:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. <sup>2</sup>Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.”

- Painfully honest, sincere, sensitive, simple, trusting.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: <sup>27</sup>But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;”

**Romans 10:13** “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

V: 4 “Humble” – preferring others before yourself.

**Psalms 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

**Romans 16:19** “... I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”

**Micah 6:8** “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

- We use this word a lot, but what does it really mean literally and practically?

**Humble:** (Webster) having or showing a consciousness of one's defects; modest, lowly; unpretentious, to lower in condition or rank; to lower in pride; make modest.

**Matthew 20:16** “So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.”

**Matthew 20:27** “And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:”

V: 5 When we receive a child, particularly a child of God; we are receiving Jesus.

**Matthew 10:40** “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

**Matthew 25:31-45** (T/T - read)

V: 6 “*Sin*” / “*Offend*” KJV = stumble, throw off course. (intentionally or un-intentionally)

**Hebrews 12:1** “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

**2 Corinthians 3:3** <sup>3</sup>“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the loving God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

- This isn't speaking so much about crimes against children, but causing the children of God to stumble through our poor witness.

Paul cautions us:

**1 Corinthians 8:9** “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.”

- “Drowned in the depth”: Jews were not a sea faring people. **1 Kings 9:26-27**
- Jews only fished the Sea of Galilee, not the Mediterranean. They were generally afraid of the ocean and of drowning. They were the only coastal nation that didn't use drowning as a form of capital punishment.

V: 7 Speaking of Judas.

**Matthew 26:24** “The Son of Man goeth as it is written of Him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born.”

V: 8-9 Similar to **Matthew 5:29-30**. Deal with sin quickly and decisively!

**Hebrews 12:1** We are a witness to the world around us.

- Hand – what we do.
- Foot – where we go.

- Eye – what we see, expose ourselves to.

**Mark 4:24** “Take heed what you hear...”

**Habakkuk 1:13** “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:...”

**Psalms 101:3** “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes...”

- “Hell fire” = Gehenna fire.
- Sweet, loving, Jesus gives more warnings about Hell, and the future than any other Bible writer.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”

**2 Timothy 2:19** “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

V: 10 Very stern warning!

- Seemingly speaking of guardian angels, who receive instruction from God Himself.

V: 11 Purpose!

**John 3:17** “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

**2 Peter 3:9** “The Lord... is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

V: 12-14 God's love for us is:

1. Un-conditional.
2. Individual.

Astray: G-4105 “planao”, plan-ah'-o; from G4106; to (prop. cause to) roam (from safety, truth, or virtue):--go astray, deceive, err, seduce, wander, be out of the way.

- “Rejoiceth” – The prodigal son. **Luke 15:11-32**

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup>who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

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V: 15 Purpose: Biblical resolution of conflicts, restoration.

**Galatians 6:1** “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; consider thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

**James 5:20** “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

**Leviticus 19:17** “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.”

**Ezekiel 3:16-21** “<sup>16</sup>And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, <sup>17</sup>Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from Me. <sup>18</sup>When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. <sup>19</sup>Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. <sup>20</sup>Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. <sup>21</sup>Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.”

V: 16 Two witnesses to establish a fact.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** “One witness shall not rise against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

**Numbers 35:30**      **Revelation 11:3**

V: 17 Confront / address in love to restore.

**1 Timothy 5:20** “Them that sin, rebuke before all, that others also may fear.”

**2 Timothy 2:23-26** <sup>23</sup>But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. <sup>24</sup>And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup>in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; <sup>26</sup>And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

- In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things love.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup>All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished / equipped unto all good works.”

- The standard is God's word. Restoration is still the goal, remember where you came from!

**1 Corinthians 6:11** “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

**Proverbs 27:6** “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

**Ephesians 4:15** “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”

*“Love without truth is hypocrisy, truth without love is brutality.”*

Jon Courson

- Dis-fellowship with those who refuse / separate from.

**1 Corinthians 5:9-13** <sup>9</sup>I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: <sup>10</sup>Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. <sup>11</sup>But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. <sup>12</sup>For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? <sup>13</sup>But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

**2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14** “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that

walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition / teaching which he received of us.” – “<sup>14</sup>And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

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Summary / review up to this point:

1. In the previous verses we see the battle in the flesh for superiority or dominance.
  2. We see the need to be a good witness, not to cause anyone to stumble.
  3. We see the need to deal with our members, hands, feet, eye – what we put our hands to, where we go – our walk, and what we watch or allow into our heart through the eye gate.
  4. We see God’s love manifest in His love for the individual, to each of us personally.
  5. And we ended with how to resolve conflicts within the body of Christ in a biblical way.
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V: 18 The previous verses describe a spiritual battle. The key to spiritual battles is prayer!

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4**      “<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds,”

**Philippians 4:6-7**      “<sup>6</sup>Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- The power of heaven unleashed through prayer!
- Re: salvation – not eliminating a persons ability to choose freely; but binding the power of the enemy to keep a person in darkness – freeing them to choose freely.

V: 19 How are we going to agree? What are we going to agree in? **PRAYER!**

“*Agree*”      (G-4856) “sumphoneo” to be harmonious, to be in accord, concur, agree, to be in “symphony”  
“Anything”?

**John 14:14**      “If ye shall ask any thing in My name (agreeing with Me, in symphony with Me), I will do it.”

**James 4:3**      “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, (not in agreement with Jesus) that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

- It shall be done.

**James 5:16b** “... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

**James 5:16a** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

**Matthew 19:26** “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

V: 20 How large must the assembly be in order to be able to bind or loose in heaven?

- Jesus in the midst of His church. **Revelation 1:12-13**

**Revelation 1:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; <sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.”

- The prayer of faith!

**John 20:29** “Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

- The connection in context is if we gather together and pray in Jesus’ name with Him, believing it’s the Father’s will, it will be done!

V: 21 The Pharisees taught that 3 times was the limit.

**Matthew 6:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>For **if** ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But **if ye forgive not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

- As we forgive others, no exceptions mentioned.

**Ephesians 4:32** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

**Colossians 3:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies (tenderhearted), kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any : even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

Dead men don't hold grudges! Can't be sinned against.

**Galatians 2:20** "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

- Dead men tell no tales, nor do they complain much...

V: 22 490 times? Probably loose count. How many times has God forgiven us?

V: 23-24 The average worker would have to work 20 years for 1 talent.

- 10,000 talents would be like 50,000,000 – unreachable.
- He owed a debt that he could never repay.
- An impossible standard.

- "10" – like 10 commandments / Law. **Exodus 20:2-17**

**Galatians 3:24** "Wherefore the law was our school master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

V: 25 Unable to pay = poor in spirit

**Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- Not so much that they are poor, but that they come to the realization that they are destitute:

**Romans 3:10, 23.**

- All that he is / had was gone = dead

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

V: 26 The servant then "humbled" himself and fell down before the King"

"And worshipped him" KJV Who? – The King.

- saying "*Master*" = (G-2962) "kurios"; supreme in authority, i.e. God, Lord, master, Sir.

V: 27 **God's grace! He begged for patience and received "forgiveness"**.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** "<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast."

- Released!

**Isaiah 61:1** “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”

- What was once dead, is now alive – born again!

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

- Forgave him the debt: No more debt, no more burden, no more sorrows.

**Isaiah 53:4** “Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: ...”

V: 28-29 1 pence / denari = 1 days wage.

- By the throat = violently.
- His fellow servant fell at his feet and spoke the same words that he had just spoken to the king.

V: 30 The word “compassion” is not found in this part of the illustration.

- This servant was moved by something less virtuous; bitterness, greed, an antonym for compassion might be contempt, or hatred.
- The fruit of the flesh as opposed to the fruit of the spirit.

V: 31 The other servants were very “sorry”:

Sorry: (G3076). lupeo, loo-peh'-o; distress; sad, grieve, be in heaviness, sorrow, sorry.

V: 32 “*O thou wicked servant,...*” (evil)

V: 33 Review: **Matthew 7:2** “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.”

**Ephesians 4:32** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

**Colossians 3:12-13** <sup>12</sup>Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies (tenderhearted), kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any : even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

V: 34 Is this regarding believers, or non-believers?

- What is expected of non-believers? Nothing.
- Only believers are held to this standard.

V: 35 “Everyone” – no exceptions. (review)

**Matthew 6:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>For **if** ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But **if ye forgive not** men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

**T/T Luke 7:36-50** “...to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

- Remember...

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** “And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”