

Introduction

1. Relevant lessons are found in this great chapter.
 - a. “Who is greatest?” – is beautifully illustrated by Christ.
 - b. The importance of the one lost sheep of the 100.
 - c. How to settle conflicts among brethren is given.
 - d. Powerful instruction on forgiveness is given with a parable on the unforgiving servant.
2. Key passages of Scripture by which to live are given.

Select Verses



- 18:1-3 - *“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.”*
- 18:4 - *“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*
- 18:6 - *“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.”*
- 18:8-9 - *“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.”*
- 18:11 - *“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.”*
- 18:15-17 - *“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.”

18:20 - *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*

18:21-22 - *“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.”*

18:23-35 - Jesus gives instruction regarding FORGIVENESS

Select Thoughts / Themes



1. The “greatest” in the Kingdom.
2. Cut off a hand, pluck out an eye – drastic language that conveys a powerful lesson.
3. Are we to forgive 70 times 7 – literally? What is the lesson?
4. The unforgiving servant – how could the one not forgive another – when he had been forgiven of so much?
5. Should we forgive another if they do not ask?



To Consider Further...

1. Is church discipline required? Explain.
2. Should a shepherd leave 99 sheep to seek one lost sheep? Why?
3. Is it the Christian’s duty to go to another who has aught against him (vs. 15-17)? Explain your answer.
4. Consider how much God has forgiven us – how can we not be forgiving toward others?
5. What does it mean to become as “*little children*” (v. 3)? In what ways should we be as small ones?