

LOST SHEEP AND LITTLE ONES

Matthew 18:10–20 (p. 1526)

September 16, 2018

*In the same way you Father in heaven is not willing
that any of these little ones should be lost.*

Matthew 18:14

The Go Principle

*If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you.
If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.*

Matthew 18:15

→ Matthew 5:23-24, “First go and be reconciled to your brother.”

Where “lost sheep” come in

See to it that you do not look down on one of these little ones Matthew 18:10

“tell it to the church”

*If he refuse to listen to them, tell it to the church;
and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*

Matthew 18:17

Dr. Weima’s three principles (CTS *Forum*) for when the “extraordinary” discipline is warranted:

- 1) when my brother or sister is at risk (1 Corinthians 5:5)
- 2) when the church is at risk (1 Corinthians 5:6)
- 3) when the name of God is slandered (1 Peter 2:12)

Forgiving and forget?

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22 (see also Luke 17:3-4 for how difficult this is!)

Jesus' final word

This is how your heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.

Matthew 18:35

- 1) FORGIVENESS is the normal Christian life

- 2) The heart of God is always SEEKING / GATHERING

For further study of Matthew 18

Start with the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 21, a discussion of the "holy catholic church." The Scripture passages in these catechism questions will keep you busy all week! Available at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

Belgic Confession, Articles 28-29, available online at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

Calvin Seminary's *Forum* which features church discipline in its Summer 2018 edition (Volume 26, Number 1). It isn't online yet (<http://www.calvinseminary.edu/ministry-connections/publications/forum-archive/>), but it is available at church!

Login Duncan's sermons on this passage at <https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/the-kingdom-principle-the-least-is-the-greatest-part-4-discipling-the-brethren>

Gordon Smith's lecture at <https://www.regentaudio.com/products/catechesis-for-a-secular-age-the-wisdom-of-1-peter>

Bob Utely's commentary on Matthew at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/matthew>

Alexander Maclaren's commentary at <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mac/matthew.html>. Even though Maclaren doesn't cover Matthew 18, his introduction is good.

John Piper's "A Gigantic Step of Leniency" article on Matthew 18 at <https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/matthew/18/articles>