



MATTHEW 18:1-14
MESSIAH ON A MISSION
(PART 35)

“The Care Of The Church”

The Kingdom Reexamines Issues From A Care Perspective

- What is different in the Kingdom about status? (18:1-6)
- The Kingdom views sinfulness as a care issue. (18:7-11)
- How does the kingdom care for those who oppose themselves? (18:12-14)
- Church discipline and conflict resolution as a care issue. (18:15-20)
- Forgiveness in the kingdom as a matter of care. (18:21-35)

We see the same things being repeated from earlier teachings of Jesus in Matthew. The first references to the issues of status and sin is as it relates to the individual.

In this chapter, Jesus' reexamination of sin and status is how they relate to the care of the people in the kingdom.

The First time the church is mentioned in Matthew 16, is as it relates to the universal application of the church.

The second time (18:17), the term church is used in the setting of the local church.

The Kingdom Of God's Inversion Of Status (18:1-6)

Jesus is asked, “who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” His disciples seek the worldly attribution of the Kingdom. Seeking inside the kingdom the familiar status and position they had seen outside the kingdom.

Will we find inside the Kingdom all the same goals, paradigms, and statuses with all their familiar symbols? Jesus answers with a shocking contrast that has staggering implications.

Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4 NASB)

A Preferred Millstone (18:6)



Upper millstones of the time of the NT were huge angled cylinders made of heavy basalt stone with a large center hole, forming a sort of elongated collar weighing in excess of 100 pounds (45 kg).

No one could possibly swim if one of these were placed over his head.

Jesus' use of the imagery of millstones was precise to the material culture of his day.
(Archeological Study Bible)

The Kingdom Views Sinfulness As A Care Issue (18:7-11)

The issue of sinfulness is at stake from a different perspective. One that primarily looks at the care of new ones and living a life of unbelief and rebellion in front of them, causing them to stumble.

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication”
(Revelation 2:14)

How Does The Kingdom Care For Those Who Oppose Themselves? (18:12-14)

We are responsible to seek those who are lost and to restore them to their God, their brothers, and their lost purpose. (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).

This Passage Demonstrates Two Things:

- 1) Jesus cares for His sheep individually and personally.
- 2) In the Kingdom, Jesus uses his people to exercise care over his flock.

We Are Even Responsible To Search For Those Who Are Spiritually Suicidal And Opposing Themselves



In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth
(2 Timothy 2:25)

“A church that does not exist to reclaim heathenism, to fight evil, to destroy error, to put down falsehood, a church that does not exist to take the side of the poor, to denounce injustice and to hold up righteousness, is a church that has no right to be. Not for yourself, O church, do you exist, any more than Christ existed for Himself.”

Charles Spurgeon

MISSION STATEMENT:

Truth Church is a Christ-centered ministry that is committed to the mission of exalting God by preaching the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit that all may have the opportunity to *experience revelation that leads to restoration.*