

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

February 1

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW LIFE IN THE KINGDOM COMMUNITY

Matthew 18:1-4 (NIV) "At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.³ And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'"

The Kingdom isn't an organization you join; it is a family you are born into.

Matthew 18:5-6 (NIV) "And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."⁶ If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

A good father watches out for his children.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CHURCH

1. We protect one another.

Mathew 18:7-9 (NIV) "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell."

2. We love one another.

Matthew 18:10-11 (NIV) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

Hebrews 1:14 (NIV) "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Matthew 18:12-14 (NIV) "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."

3. We restore one another.

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV) "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the

testimony of two or three witnesses.'¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

FOUR STEPS FOR RESTORATION

A. Step One: Private Correction.

James 5:16 (NIV) "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

B. Step Two: Small Group Clarification.

Deuteronomy 19:15 (NIV) "One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

C. Step Three: Church Admonition.

Galatians 6:1-3 (NIV) "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ²Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves."

D. Step Four: Church Excommunication.

Matthew 18:18-20 (NIV) "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

4. We forgive one another.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV) "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' ²²Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times' ²³Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. ²⁹His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back." ³⁰But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³²Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

We are the servant with the unpayable debt.

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