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## *Sowing the Word*

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“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? “



### **Matthew 18** **January 13th-19th, 2011**

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So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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## **Helpful Study Resource:**

*Explore the Book* by J. Sidlow Baxter

## **Online Help:**

[http://preceptaustin.org/matthew\\_commentaries.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/matthew_commentaries.htm)

## **Commentary:**

The commentary used with permission throughout  
this booklet is:

**With the Word Bible Commentary**

**by Warren W. Wiersbe.**

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

# Outline

## **I. The Revelation of the King (1–10)**

- A. The person of the King (1–4)
  - 1. His ancestry (1:1–17)
  - 2. His arrival (1:18–2:23)
- B. The presentation of the King (3–4)
  - 1. His messenger & baptizer (3)
  - 2. His temptation and early ministry (4)
- C. The principles of the King (5–7)
- D. The power of the King (8–9)
- E. The people of a King sent out (10)

## **II. The Rebellion Against the King (11–13)**

- A. His messenger rejected (11:1–19)
- B. His works denied (11:20–30)
- C. His principles refused (12:1–21)
- D. His person attacked (12:22–50)
- E. Result: the parables of the kingdom (13)

## **III. The Preparations of the King (14–20)**

- A. Preparing for work (14)
- B. Preparing for faith (15)
- C. Preparing for the Cross (16)
- D. Preparing for heaven (17)
- E. Preparing for problems (18)
- F. Preparing for relationships (19)
- G. Preparing for greatness (20)

## **IV. The Cross of the King (21–27)**

- A. His public presentation to the Jews (21:1–16)
- B. His conflict with the religious leaders (21:17–23:39)
- C. His prophecies of the future kingdom (24–25)
- D. His suffering and death (26–27)

## **V. The Resurrection of the King (28)**

## **VII. (Epilogue) The King's Assignment (28:16–20)**















# With the Word Bible Commentary

## Matthew 18

**Greatness (1–14).** A child totally depends on others and must live by faith. An unspoiled child accepts his position in life, enjoys it, and does not try to act like someone older (Ps. 131). “He will be greatest who has the least idea he is great,” wrote A. H. McNeile.

The way we treat children (including those who are “children in the faith”) indicates how much humility we practice. Do we receive them (v. 5) or despise them (v. 10)? Do we imitate them (vv. 3–4) or cause them to stumble by our bad example (vv. 6–9)? It was a sheep, not a lamb, that went astray (vv. 10–14)!

**Truthfulness (15–20).** “Speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) is the secret of maintaining Christian fellowship. The longer we resist, the more people we involve in the problem (Matt. 5:21–26). Humility and honesty must work together in producing harmony.

**Forgiveness (21–35).** Peter wanted a rule to obey, which shows he was not in the spirit of what Jesus taught (Rom. 12:8–10). The parable is not about salvation but about forgiveness among God’s people. We are to forgive others because God has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13), and He has forgiven us at great cost to Himself! It is possible to receive forgiveness but not truly experience forgiveness in our hearts; therefore, we have a hard time sharing forgiveness with others.

When you have an unforgiving spirit, you put yourself in prison spiritually and emotionally; you pay dearly for the luxury of carrying a grudge. Is it worth it?

*“He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over  
which he himself must pass.”*

*George Herbert*

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Mat 18:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

***"Except ye be converted, and become  
as little children. . . ."***

Matthew 18:3

Written By: *Oswald Chambers*

Taken From: *My Utmost for His Highest*

These words of Our Lord are true of our initial conversion, but we have to be continuously converted all the days of our lives, continually to turn to God as children. If we trust to our wits instead of to God, we produce consequences for which God will hold us responsible. Immediately our bodies are brought into new conditions by the providence of God, we have to see that our natural life obeys the dictates of the Spirit of God. Because we have done it once is no proof that we shall do it again. The relation of the natural to the spiritual is one of continuous conversion, and it is the one thing we object to. In every setting in which we are put, the Spirit of God remains unchanged and His salvation unaltered, but we have to "put on the new man." God holds us responsible every time we refuse to convert ourselves, our reason for refusing is wilful obstinacy. Our natural life must not rule, God must rule in us.

The hindrance in our spiritual life is that we will not be continually converted, there are wadges of obstinacy where our pride spits at the throne of God and says - I won't. We deify independence and wilfulness and call them by the wrong name. What God looks on as obstinate weakness, we call strength. There are whole tracts of our lives which have not yet been brought into subjection, and it can only be done by this continuous conversion. Slowly but surely we can claim the whole territory for the Spirit of God.

