

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 18 ~ Exploring Chapter 18:1 – 19:15

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 18:1-19:15
- Read Matt. 18:1-19:15 at least twice and then address the following exercises in your notebook.
 - Outline chapter 18. Then, in short paragraphs, summarize the major teaching in each section. Discuss the themes that hold this chapter together.
- Read Matt 18:1-14 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - What is our view of greatness? Have you put that view into operation in your daily life? In what specific ways can you improve on that implementation?
- Read Matt 18:15-20 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - When you have a problem with your neighbor or fellow church member do you follow the counsel of 18:15-17, or do you rely on gossip, faultfinding, and “spiritual assassination” to handle your problems? What evidence can you supply for your answer?
- Read Matt. 18:21-35 and then answer the following question in your notebook.
 - Explain the relationship between Peter's question in 18:21 and the parable that begins in 18:23.
 - How many times should we forgive? Compare various Bible versions on that point.
 - According to chapter 18, what difference does our answer to the question of how forgiving we are make?
 - With the use of a concordance, look up Jesus' other counsel on forgiveness in Matthew. How does that counsel line up with our present passage?
 - In what ways have you demonstrated that you are as enthusiastic about forgiving as you are about being forgiven?
- Read Matt 19:1-12 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Summarize the major points that Jesus makes in His counsel on divorce in 19:1-12.
 - Use your marginal references to find and read the other place in Matthew where Jesus speaks to the issue of 19:3.
 - What are the Old Testament references for the allusions in 19:4, 5?
 - What are the implications of the final words in verse 5 (“the two will become one flesh”) for the argument?
 - What are the implications of that phrase for the Bible's confusing teaching on polygamy?
- Read Matt 19:13-15 and then answer the following question in your notebook.
 - How have you exemplified mercy this past week to children and to the “little ones” in your church and neighborhood?
 - What specific actions can you list that will improve your ministry to them?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).