

# THE LIFE OF CHRIST

## LESSON 4: MATTHEW 18



JULY 20, 2014

# REVIEW

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- Tension continued to build between the Pharisees (ruling Jews) and Jesus
- Jesus continued to emphasize that he needed to die and be resurrected
- In the transfiguration, Jesus demonstrated his position above all else
- Jesus demanded that his disciples put him above all else in their lives

# TODAY'S KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- We must humble ourselves in order to enter the kingdom of heaven
- We must cut off anything in our lives that would cause us to stumble (sin)
- We must confront sins against each other directly, as the Bible prescribes
- We must be willing to forgive each other of sins, even as God forgives us of our sins

# MATTHEW 18:1-6

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- A dispute had started about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven
- **In order to be in the kingdom of heaven, one must be as humble as a little child**
- If one treats a Christian well, it is as if they are treating Jesus well
- If one causes a Christian to stumble (sin), it would be better if he were dead

# MATTHEW 18:7-14

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- Jesus took this opportunity to explore the concept of stumbling blocks
- **If anything causes you to sin, get rid of it!**
- **If anything causes another Christian to sin, get rid of it, or stop doing it!**
- God does not want even one person to stumble and be lost in sin

# MATTHEW 18:15-20

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- Jesus further discussed how to deal with a situation where one sins against another
  - Go and directly talk to the person alone
  - Talk with the person with one or two mediators to help judge the situation
  - Tell the church that everyone may exhort the person to repent of his sin
  - Let the person be as a heathen (withdraw)

# MATTHEW 18:21-35

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- Peter wanted to know how many times he should forgive his brother, however
- **Jesus told him that he should forgive him (essentially) as many times as necessary**
- Jesus told a parable to teach his disciples how they ought to forgive
- **If we do not forgive others, neither will God forgive us of our sins**

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