

Finding what was lost...

What does God search for?

1

Matthew 18:1-14

1: Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?

2-4: Only **the lowly** can enter the Kingdom

5-9: We must welcome **the lowly**

We MUST NOT make **the lowly** stumble

10-14: God leaves the secure (99)

to retrieve **the lowly wanderer (1)**

"In the same way, your Father in heaven **is not willing** that **any of these little ones** should **perish**."

What should Christ's people do?

2

Restoring the Wanderer Matthew 18:15-20

ref.ly/Mt18;niv



3

from Matthew 18:12-14

The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine on the hills and goes to look for the one that wandered off.

“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. **In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.**”

4

Matthew 18:15-17

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins ^{"against you"}, 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. Remove privileges of Christian fellowship

5

Has application for personal offenses

- Go directly, just the 2 of you
- If it isn't resolved and it merits attention, get others to help

"Do not hate your brother in your heart.

Rebuke your neighbor frankly
so that you will not share in his guilt."

Leviticus 19:17

"Fools show their annoyance at once,
but the prudent overlook an insult."

Proverbs 12:16

6

But the focus here is:

a fellow disciple who is
in spiritual danger through sin

7

“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.”

Hebrews 3:12-14

8

“My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: **Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.**”

James 5:19-20

9

“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.”

Galatians 6:1

10

“Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, **in order that they may feel ashamed**. Yet **do not regard them as an enemy**, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.”

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

11

“**Wounds from a friend can be trusted**,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

Proverbs 27:6

12

Core Value:

Superabounding grace
AND
Complete Obedience to Christ

“We are committed to building a community that practices superabounding grace **while calling our people to complete obedience to Christ.**”

13

Matthew 18:15-17

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14

Matthew 18:18-20

¹⁸ "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.

¹⁹ "Again, 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. ²⁰ For where **two or three** gather in my name, there am I with them."

The Church is to be aligned with God
God is at work through the Church

15

The Main Point

**Christ's people must live out
God's deep value to rescue straying disciples
including confrontation**

16

Application

Care personally for those who are straying

- God leaves the 99 secure sheep on the hillside
- Whom do we know who is wandering?
- The whole church caring for the whole church
 - Radiance

17

Application

Protect honor

- Talk directly to the person
- Expand the “team” only for loving action

18

Application

Use all the godly tools we have available

- Care and kindness
- Confrontation
 - “Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.” Proverbs 27:6
- Even shame

19

Your Father in heaven is not willing
that any of these little ones should perish.

20

*"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.*

Matthew 18:15