

# MATTHEW 18 vs 12

KJV-lite™ VERSES

[www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html](http://www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html)

The disciples... however many in attendance, were perplexed over many questions raised by their Teacher; undeniably they needed to change their thinking... with questions about the church He is building; with questions about their ineffective handling of demon possession; even questions over paying taxes. Matthew just recalled, they wanted to know: Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus simply responded: Except you all turn and become as little children, you will not enter into the kingdom -- and I guess He could have added... and find out the answer!



Now, Jesus has a question for the students... He asks...

**12 What do you think? if someone has 100 sheep /**

a man or woman, young or old, / sheep in Greek = **probaton**; where we get our word: **probation** meaning: a period of testing; conditional liberty. This word is used 42 times in the New Testament, John 10 uses **probaton** 17 times to describe the great Shepherd who says: **My sheep hear My voice and follow Me,**

**and one of them goes astray, does he not leave 99 on the mountain pasture /** Jesus says a shepherd = in Greek: **poimen**, used 18 times in the NT; 17 times translated **shepherd** about the good Shepherd, and 1 time only: pastor, [that word is not found in the comprehensive list of spiritual gifts to the church](#), **1 Corinthians 12**. If anyone questions the meaning: shepherd, the Lord GOD gave His definition in **Ezekiel 34 where the word is used 32 times**. The LORD says: I will search for My sheep. I will seek out My flock and deliver them where they were scattered. I will feed My flock; I will save My flock.

Jesus asks...

**if one has 100 sheep... and one of them goes wandering, does he not leave 99 on the mountain pasture, and go search for the one that wandered off?** / obviously, Jesus thinks any good and decent Shepherd would have enough sense to do that! Dr. Dallas Willard asked: have you ever considered what it means to be lost? Lost keys... to cars or houses are incredibly useless, aren't they? They certainly are out of place.

**13 And if it happens that he finds it /** the one gone astray,

**Truly / Amen! I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep /** the good Shepherd rejoices more over that one, **than for the 99 which did not wander off.**

**14 Thus it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven /** from the beginning, it was and still is the will of God our Father... who desires to make **Adam's race in His image and likeness**; that all those created in His likeness would love Him freely; as well as love one another... but obviously things went horribly wrong... which was **not** the will of our Father in heaven. Thankfully... in His love for the world, He prepared a failsafe plan – foolproof and guaranteed for that possibility... and that guarantee included giving His best -- His only Son,

it is **not** the will of your Father who is in heaven

that one of these little ones should perish / it never was the will of God our Father that any small or great should perish. Just imagine what God thinks about foolish men and women **aborting the least of the least**. When our heavenly Father works, what He does is always good. When the Spirit of God works with this broken creation... He lovingly continues to do all He knows to secure the good for those who hear His voice and follow Him, that none of His creation crashes and burns.

-----

Next is a curious conversation. In Matthew 16, Jesus said, **I will build My church = My ekklesia**. The word is used 116 times in the NT -- **only 3 times in the gospel** written by Matthew. This word always refers to people, **never** to a building: specifically to the **out-called-ones**... who usually met in homes. It is noteworthy: Peter **never** used this word in his letters.

So, you might wonder why it is mentioned now. Well, human nature at its worst... prefers its man-made traditions... which attempt to preempt the Word of God.

 <sup>15</sup> Moreover if your brother trespasses against you,

go and tell him his fault between you and him **alone** / go in private; which means: don't text his fault... or publish it on the internet:


if he hears you, **you have gained your brother**.

 <sup>16</sup> But if he will **not** hear you,

then take with you... one or two more / in Greek: **heis e duo** -- not complicated math, / because **you** + 1 or 2 = 2 or 3... doesn't it? Jesus is talking about the church that He said He is building -- His church: not mine, not yours! Isn't it interesting that the Godhead includes: **the Father, Son and Holy Spirit** -- those 3 know the adequate number to establish truth.

that in the mouth of two or three witnesses... every word may be established.

<sup>17</sup> And if he neglects to hear them / if your brother who has stepped over the line won't listen,

 tell it to the church / tell it to the out-called-ones... 2 or 3 more people who are in the church He is building, or even like the 7 Jesus had breakfast with on the shore of Galilee after He rose from the dead. The specific number isn't important, Jesus isn't imposing new rules and regulations for some **Effective Church Leadership** manual... He is writing lessons on the hearts of His first grade students enrolled in His class, hearing His voice... and following Him:

but if he neglects to hear the church / that Jesus is building **then stop there**,

# MATTHEW 18 vs 12

KJV-lite™ VERSES

[www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html](http://www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html)

let him be to you as a heathen and a tax collector / consider him an unfavorable Gentile... thought to be cursed by God; or like those greasy folks in govt who take your money those not known to be loved by mankind.

**18 Truly I say to you,**

**Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven:**

**and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven /** and this is interesting, binding and loosening are the tools needed to help gain or prevent entrance. Jesus gave His followers the necessary keys; here are the same words Jesus said to Peter... **so, it isn't exclusive to him...** except if you speak the dead language of the dead letter, of the hocus pocus church.

In the 1700s Adam Clarke wrote: Binding and loosing here, and in Matthew 16:19, is as plain as the sun, by what occurs in numberless places dispersed through the Mishnah, and commonly used by the rabbis when they treat the subject of rituals, **binding and loosing** was understood by Jewish leaders to be declarations of **what was determined permissible and what was prohibited.**



Our Savior spoke to His disciples in a language they understood; they were not at a loss to grasp His meaning; so if it is obsolete to us... is no reason why we would conclude it was obscure to them. The words: **bind and loose**, are used in both places in a declaratory sense, **of things**, **not** of persons. It is: in the neuter gender, both in chap. 16, and here in this: i.e. what thing or things you will bind and loose: **things obligatory, and things not required.**

So, what had been granted only a short time before to Peter... is clearly extended to all the disciples; and what it means, it means nothing special to Peter, and less to his pretended successors at Rome.

In the church Jesus is building... for example: where 2 or 3 might gather in His name: **and in those countries that have ducks, but no sheep, or have mango, but no grape vines; or rice cakes, but no bread...** Jesus knows... they will want to know: **what is permitted or prohibited... when best representing His teaching and illustrating His lessons.**

Jesus says...

**Truly I say to you / who gather in My name, / representing Him here on earth**

**Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven: and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven; / Jesus says: Go for it! Amen! Not a problem! You are for Me! I am for you!**

Jesus knew... legalists and lovers of man-made traditions also were on their way.

# MATTHEW 18 vs 12

KJV-lite™ VERSES

[www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html](http://www.ilibros.net/KJV-lite.html)

<sup>19</sup> Again **I say to you** that if two of you **agree** / in Greek: **sumphoned**... meaning: if 2 make a harmonious compact; where we get our word: **symphony**; Jesus is talking about a symphony of 2... Jesus is a good Teacher; with intent He is repeating himself; He knows some students don't listen well; and some just do not do math well; if a husband and a wife; or, if a couple of friends **agree**, no age limit, no race limit, no gender limit in the Lord;

**on earth as touching any matter** / any deed, any object or any business matter,

that they will ask, **it will be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.**

<sup>20</sup> For where two or three **gather together in My name** / **sunago**; where 2 or 3 convene, where 2 or 3 assemble in harmony together; where **He is the Center** of the meeting; like envoys representing the Lord, having His mind, thinking His thoughts. Where 2 or 3 come together in the place He is building - little outposts scatter throughout the world as Dallas Willard USC philosopher said, the greatest representation of the Lord is seen in His love, His desire to secure the welfare of others.

Jesus says, **when 2 or 3 of you gather together... in My name...**

**I am there in the middle of them** / Jesus makes this promise: **He is there**... in the center of the church He is building... **without** any blessings or approval of any prelate... **without** authorization from any clerical board... and **without** consent of any apostolic convocation.

And we should deeply consider this amazing chapter: **Jesus gave these promises to all His students** learning from Him... however many were there. Well everybody **except Peter**... because we read:

<sup>21</sup> **Then came Peter to him...** Wow! There must have been a camel jam en route! So Peter was not part of this conversation; so it is worth reading again, being directed to us followers of the Lord.

---

His sheep hear His voice and follow Him

The Lord is My Shepherd | This is My Father's World | JESUS it is YOU

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise: 

**The Funeral of a Great Myth** -- CSLewisDoodle