**Thank God Has Forgiven Us**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Matthew 18:10-16**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 26, 2021**

**PowerPoint> Matthew 18:10-16**

**PowerPoint> 10 "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. 11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.**

Saints, little ones can refer to both children and disciples. The words don’t despise pointed directly at the pious religious leaders who showed nothing but contempt for those below them on the “spiritual ladder” (see, for example, Luke 18:9-14 about the Pharisee and the tax collector).

**PowerPoint> Luke 18:9-14**

Saints, the reason the “little ones” should not be despised is because in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father. Some have seen in these verses the concept of guardian angels. These words neither prove nor condemn the concept. Being in God’s presence means having access to God, so these angels are ministering angels (see Hebrews 1:14).

**PowerPoint> Hebrews 1:14**

Saints, the Old Testament speaks about angelic intercession and help as in:

**PowerPoint> Psalm 91:9-11**

Also, in Daniel 10:10-14, angels watch over nations.

**PowerPoint> Daniel 10:10-14**

The meaning here is that God’s people are constantly represented before the Father; therefore, each one of us has special importance!

Saints, verse 11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost: is not found in the earliest and best manuscripts; therefore, it is not included in most modern versions.

**12 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?**

Saints, Jesus was addressing his disciples, reminding them that God’s care extends to each of his “little ones” (here portrayed as sheep). If a sheep should go astray from the flock, God, like a protective shepherd, will go out into the hills to search for the lost one.

Saints, God is concerned about every single believer and will actively go in search of those who have “gone astray” (meaning they have gotten out of a right relationship with him, are heading toward false teaching, are heading down a dangerous path in life, or are falling into sin).

Saints, have you ever came to a place where you felt you ventured far from God and that he’s so distant to from you? Or maybe you felt that your transgression was so abhorrent towards Him you feel as thoughhe has abandoned you?

The next time that ever happens to you cry out to God like the psalmist in:

**PowerPoint> Psalm 119:169-176**

**PowerPoint> 13 And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.**

Saints, the Father does not want any of his flock to wander away. God so loves each of his followers that, should they go astray, he actively seeks and rejoices when they return to him.

**PowerPoint> Prodigal: Webster’s Dictionary Definition**

1. wastefully or recklessly extravagant: prodigal expenditure.

2. giving or yielding profusely; lavish (usually followed by of or with): prodigal of smiles; prodigal with money.

3. lavishly abundant; profuse: nature's prodigal resources.

4. a person who spends, or has spent, his or her money or substance with wasteful extravagance; spendthrift.

**PowerPoint> Luke 15:11-32**

A sheep that is not “found” (that is, one that willingly refuses faith) will face a consequence—that sheep will perish. But God does not want that to happen. He will rejoice over a “lost” person who is “found!”

**PowerPoint> 2 Peter 3:9**

Saints, God wants faithful believers to be part of the rescue team. Our follow-through care of new Christians, our small group ministry, and our individual contact with fellow believers should demonstrate the Great Shepherd’s care for his sheep.

**PowerPoint> Matthew 22:36-40**

**PowerPoint> 15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'**

Saints, these are Jesus’ guidelines for dealing with those who sin against us. These guidelines were meant for Christians and for discipline and conflict resolution in the context of the church. These steps are designed to reconcile church members who disagree, so that the church body can live in harmony.

Jesus explained that the person who has been offended must first go privately and point out the fault. A personal confrontation, carried out in love, will allow the sinning member the opportunity to correct himself. However, the person doing the confronting ought to be very certain of his accusation and that he is doing this out of true humility with a view to restoration of the other.

**PowerPoint> Galatians 6:1-4**

Saints, many misunderstandings and hurt feelings can be solved at this stage, but this is not a license for a frontal attack on every person who hurts or slights us. Personal action saves church leaders from getting involved in everyone’s personal concerns. Personal confrontation also keeps believers from gossiping with one another. Instead, believers are to be mature enough to go directly to the source and deal with the problem at that level.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**PowerPoint> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**PowerPoint> 1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

**PowerPoint> Short Movie Slide>**

**PowerPoint> Acts 2:38-39**

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**