**Matthew 18 (4th major discourse of Jesus)**

1. **Who is the greatest? (Verses 1- 4)**
   1. The disciples want to know who will be the greatest in the Kingdom.
      1. In Luke 9:46-48, we are told that a dispute arose amongst them. This is not the last time as they would argue over this topic (Luke 22:24-30 (Matthew 20:20-28))
      2. The disciples display a desire for earthly recognition, earthly honor even though Jesus had just spoken to them about sacrifice and bearing their cross.
   2. Jesus says “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven (verse 3).
2. **Jesus warns about offenses (verses 5-10)**
   1. The term “little child” refers to a disciple of Christ. We are to welcome all disciples in love regardless of any traits that may distinguish that person from another. Everyone is to be treated with love. Whether that person is in need physically or spiritually (Matthew 25: 35-40). By welcoming others, we welcome Christ.
   2. Jesus warns about causing one to stumble.
   3. We must take drastic steps to free ourselves
   4. In verse 10, Jesus emphasizes the point that we are to lookout for one another.
3. **Jesus came to seek and save that which is lost (verses 11-14)**
4. **Maintaining purity within the Kingdom (verses 15 -20)**
   1. The Church is to be blemish free
   2. Ephesians 5:25-27
5. **The parable of the unforgiving servant (verses 21 – 35)**
   1. The debt that others may owe us is insignificant and small in comparison to the debt that we have been forgiven.
   2. As a disciple of Christ in all things we do, we are expected to be faithful. We are always expected to reflect the image of our Lord & Savior.
   3. Forgiveness is a part of this duty. It is something that is fully expected of faithful servants.
   4. Luke 17 :1-10