

Gospel Harmony Event # 73

Matthew 18:1-14; Mark 9:33-50; Luke 9:46-50

[Question #1] Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. Then He came to Capernaum. And Jesus, when He was in the house, perceiving the thought of their heart, asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the greatest*.

[Question #2] And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him by Him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

[Question #3] Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us."

But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side. For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

[Question #4] "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

[Question # 5] "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— where

'Their worm does not die
And the fire is not quenched.'

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the everlasting fire that shall never be quenched— where

'Their worm does not die
And the fire is not quenched.'

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— where

[Question #6] 'Their worm does not die
And the fire is not quenched.'

[Question #7] "For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."

[Question #8] "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. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

[Question #9] "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? 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. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

1. Is this dispute related to the disciples' recent experiences? [Matthew 18:1; Mark 9:33-34; Luke 9:46]
2. How does the character of little children represent the character of those who are great in the Kingdom of Heaven? [Matthew 18:2-5; Mark 9:35-37; Luke 9:47-48]
3. Was the man John saw casting out demons a disciple of Jesus? Explain your answer. [Mark 9:38-41; Luke 9:49-50]
4. How can one cause one of "these little ones" to stumble? [Matthew 18:6-7; Mark 9:42]
5. Explain the phrase "It is better for you to enter life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell" and the repetitions regarding feet and eyes. [Matthew 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-48]
6. What is the worm that does not die and the fire that is not quenched? [Mark 9:44, 46, 48]
7. Explain the analogy of salt. [Mark 9:49-50]

