

Treasure Hunt

- What does it mean to “offend” one of the little ones?
- Where is the Lord’s warning about offending others echoed later in the NT?
- What kind of offense should we not seek to avoid?
- What two different situations does the parable of the shepherd describe in Matthew 18 and Luke 15?
- What is a chiasm?
- What does the Lord emphasize by arranging the parable of the shepherd as a chiasm?

Relations with Other Disciples

18:1-35 Relations with other disciples

1-4 Question and Answer

Q: 1 Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

A: The Lord divides the question

- 2-3 answers, "Who is in the kingdom?"
- 4 answers, "Who is greatest?"

5-14 Do not give offense

5-9 The Principle

10-14 The Parable: The Lost Sheep

15-35 Dealing with the sin of others

15-20 The Principle

21-35 The Parable: The Two Debtors

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom

- all things that **offend**,
- and them which **do iniquity**;

Matt 18:5 and 10:40-42

Mat 18:5 And whoso shall **receive** one such **little child** in my name **receiveth** me.

“Receive”	“Reward”
10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.	
41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of <u>a prophet</u>	shall receive a prophet's reward ;
and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of <u>a righteous man</u>	shall receive a righteous man's reward .
42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold <i>water</i> only in the name of <u>a disciple</u> ,	verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward .

Understanding “offense”

Rom 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a

stumblingblock or an **occasion to fall** **σκανδαλον** in *his* brother's way. ...

20 For meat **destroy** not the work of God. All things indeed *are* pure; but *it* is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

21 *It* is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor *any thing* whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is **offended** **σκανδαλιζω**, or is made weak.

22 Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. 23 And he that doubteth is **damned** if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever *is* not of faith is sin.

How might offense “destroy the work of God”?

1Th 1:9 ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

But can we lose our salvation?

1Sa 16:7 man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

1Jo 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Other Examples of Offense

1Co 8:10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; 11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother **perish** **απολλυμι** [Matt 18:14], for whom Christ died? 12 But when ye **sin** so **against** [Matt 18:15] the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. 13 Wherefore, if meat **make** my brother **to offend σκανδαλιζω** [offend my brother], I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I **make** my brother **to offend σκανδαλιζω** [offend my brother].

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a **stumblingblock σκανδαλον** before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Offenses that should Not be Avoided

Mat 11:6 And blessed is *he*,
whosoever shall not be
offended in me.

Mat 15:12 Then came his
disciples, and said unto him,
Knowest thou that the Pharisees
were **offended**, after they heard
this saying?

Mat 26:31 Then saith Jesus
unto them, All ye shall be
offended because of me this
night: for it is written, I will smite
the shepherd, and the sheep of
the flock shall be scattered
abroad.

Mar 6:3 Is not this the
carpenter, the son of Mary, the
brother of James, and Joses,
and of Juda, and Simon? and
are not his sisters here with us?
And they were **offended** at him.

Joh 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples,
when they had heard *this*, said, This is an
hard saying; who can hear it? 61 When
Jesus knew in himself that his disciples
murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this
offend you?

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified,
unto the Jews a **stumblingblock**, and unto
the Greeks foolishness;

Gal 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach
circumcision, why do I yet suffer
persecution? then is the **offence** of the cross
ceased.

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe *he*
is precious: but unto them which be
disobedient, the stone which the builders
disallowed, the same is made the head of
the corner, 8 And a stone of **stumbling**, and
a rock of offence, *even to them* which
stumble at the word, being disobedient:
whereunto also they were appointed.

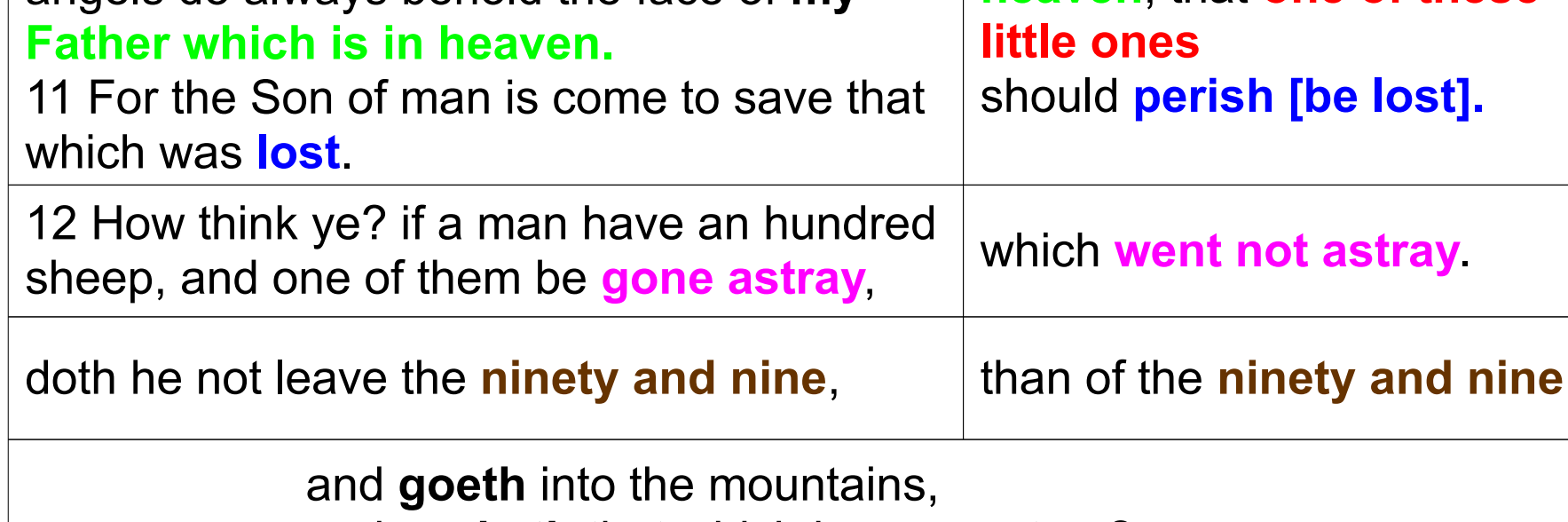
Recalling the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 18	Matthew 5
Hand and Foot	
8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee,	30 And if thy right hand offend thee,
cut them off, and cast <i>them</i> from thee:	cut it off, and cast <i>it</i> from thee:
it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed,	for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish,
rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.	and not <i>that</i> thy whole body should be cast into hell.
Eye	
9 And if thine eye offend thee,	29 And if thy right eye offend thee,
pluck it out, and cast <i>it</i> from thee:	pluck it out, and cast <i>it</i> from thee:
it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye,	for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish,
rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.	and not <i>that</i> thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Two Parables of the Shepherd and the Sheep

	Matthew 18	Luke 15
Audience	1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus	1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.
Population	Little ones ... those in the kingdom	Publicans, sinners, scribes, Pharisees
Father's motive	14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish [be lost]	(not stated)
State of the wanderer	Astray v. 12	Lost v. 4
State of the 99	13 went not astray	7 need no repentance
Role of the wilderness	12 he ... goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray	4 leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness
Where he brings the sheep	Not stated	6 and when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours,
Certainty of outcome	13 If so be that he find it...	5 When he hath found it...

Chiasm in Matt 18:10-14



<p>10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.</p> <p>11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.</p>	<p>14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish [be lost].</p>
<p>12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray,</p>	<p>which went not astray.</p>
<p>doth he not leave the ninety and nine,</p>	<p>than of the ninety and nine</p>
<p>and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that <i>sheep</i>,</p>	