

Seeking the Stray (Matthew 18:10-14)

Introduction

- What is Matthew 18 largely about?
- What has Jesus just warned about in v6-9?

Matthew 18:10-14

- What does v10 tell us not to do?
- Why must we not do that?
- What happens in Jesus' parable in v12?
- How does the shepherd feel when he finds the sheep in v13?
- Who is like the shepherd in v14?
- So what is the point of the parable?

i God's concern

- What is the first angle on God's concern in our passage?
- What is the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints?
- Does this mean true Christians will never backslide?
- How do the following passages prove this doctrine?

(i) John 10:27-30

(ii) Romans 8:28-30

(iii) Philippians 1:6

(iv) I Peter 1:3-5

- When might this reassure you?
- What is the second angle on God's concern in our passage?
- What two truths make that all the more spectacular?
- How might this refine the way you think about yourself?
- How should you respond if you are not a Christian?

ii Our concern

- What does v10 actually forbid?
- What is the opposite attitude we should be living out?
- List three ways this might apply in church life.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

- Whose help are we going to need to do this when it's tough?