

## LESSON 12

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Parable of the Lost Sheep

*Directions:* Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. According to Matthew 1:1 who is the intended audience of Matthew's gospel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Keep this in mind as we do a contextual analysis of the parable contained in Matthew 18:10-14. It is called the parable of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "Contextual" means looking at the passages before and after the one being analyzed to get hints about its \_\_\_\_\_.
4. According to Matthew 18:1, to whom does Jesus address this parable?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. This same verse gives Jesus' reason for telling the parable. The disciples have just asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the \_\_\_\_\_?"
6. The passage that comes right before the parable is an admonition of Jesus about scandal or bad example. In Matthew 18:6-9 Jesus warns: "Woe to the person who causes one of these little ones to \_\_\_\_\_." (v. 6)
7. The reason given for not despising these little ones is that "their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my \_\_\_\_\_." (v. 10)
8. In other words, these lowly children who at first glance seem unimportant are worthy of great respect because they have representatives before God in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The passage following the parable of the lost sheep is another saying of Jesus. This one deals with the proper treatment of a stubborn \_\_\_\_\_.
10. "If your brother sins against you" (Mt 18:15-18) you are to follow a three step process in trying to win him over.
  - A. First, go alone to him and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. If he does not listen to you, take one or two others along with you as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. If he refuses to listen to them, tell the whole local community of believers. If he still refuses to repent of his faults, treat him like a Gentile or a tax collector. In other words, consider him an \_\_\_\_\_.
11. So the passage *before* the parable of the lost sheep and the passage *after* it both deal with \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Now let's look at the passage in the middle to see what it is about. This parable tells of a (good) shepherd who leaves a flock of ninety-nine sheep in order to rescue one sheep that has gone \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 12 continued

13. The passage before and after this parable both seem to treat sinners in the same way. Both of these passages give up on sinners and consider them \_\_\_\_\_.
14. But the parable of the lost sheep counters such harsh treatment with the suggestion that the believers should not abandon sinners, but should actively \_\_\_\_\_.
15. In fact, Jesus further astonishes us by comparing lost sheep or sinners with the ones mentioned in Matthew 18:6, 10. They are the \_\_\_\_\_.
16. In this section Matthew seems to be saying that at the same time that God is severe, God is also \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Contextual analysis does not only examine the passages before and after the one being analyzed. This method also looks for clues about meaning in the parallel passages of other \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Luke 15:3-7 is the only other mention of this parable in the New Testament. In Matthew Jesus tells the parable to his disciples, while in Luke 15:2 Jesus is talking to \_\_\_\_\_.
19. In Matthew, the parable refers to God's pursuant love, even for sinners. In Luke, however, it is a justification for Jesus eating with \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 2)
20. In Matthew, the parable refers to the wishes of God in heaven about sinners, while in Luke the parable defends Jesus' (God on earth) hospitality of sinners when he sits down to \_\_\_\_\_.