
IGNATIUS
Catholic Study Bible

The Gospel of
MATTHEW



Commentary, Notes, & Study Questions

Revised Standard Version
Second Catholic Edition

Sunday Bible College

Chapter 18

True Greatness
Temptations to Sin
Parable of the Lost Sheep
Binding and Loosing Sins
Repeated Forgiveness
Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Holy Trinity
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Parable of the Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:10-14

1. A key verse in understanding the existence and ministry of angels, sometimes called Guardian Angels.

See Tobit 12:15; Job 33:32-34; Ps 34:7, 91:11, Acts 12:15; Hebrews 1:15

From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession.²⁰² "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life."²⁰³ Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God. CCC 336

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:10-14

2. This passage also is foundational to the Christian understanding of the value of the human person.

Our Creator values each human person worthy of search and rescue.

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Matthew 18:10-14

2. The Allegory of St's Hilary and Anselm,

The 99 sheep on the hill are the myriad angels in heaven who have never sinned.

The 1 sheep that is lost is mankind, lost through the fall.

The hill is heaven, the presence of God.

Christ leaves the hill in the incarnation, descending all the way to the Valley of the shadow of death, to lift mankind back up the hill - into heaven.

There, the angels rejoice at the restoration of mankind.

(compare this to the "lost Parables" and the angel rejoicing. Lk 15)