

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ  
03/12/2023

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

# SUNDAY SCHOOL Quarter Preview

## Called from the Margins of Society

■ 3/5: **Luke 15:11 – 24**

God calls the Prodigal Son home after he humbles himself

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**Jesus Calls Us**

**Called from the Margins of Society**

**The Greatest in the  
Kingdom**

**Matthew 18:1 – 9**

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# Background

- In addition to parables, Jesus used examples in nature and society that were easy for people to understand.
- He also would use hyperbole - exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.

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# Background

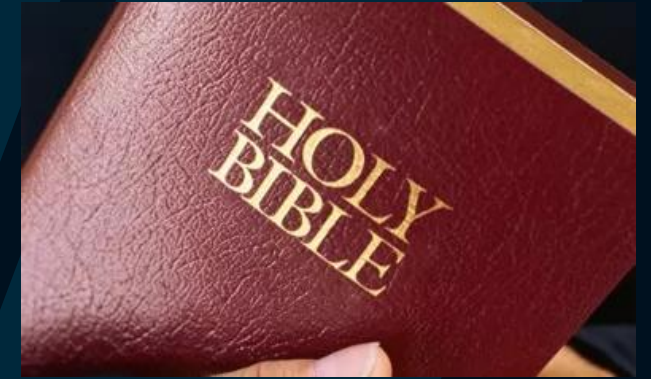
- In both cases, it would make people **THINK** about a subject
- An easy answer is easily forgotten, but to apply reason and a process to solve a problem can last a lifetime

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# Lesson Text

Who Is the Greatest?

## Matthew 18:1 – 3a (NKJV)



<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup> Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, <sup>3</sup> and said,

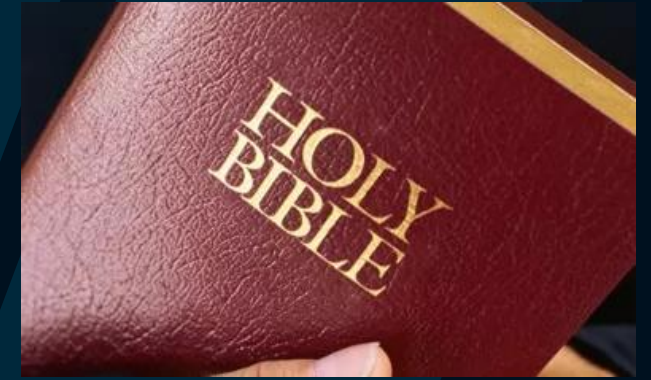
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# Lesson Text

Who Is the Greatest?

## Matthew 18:3b – 5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.



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## COMMENTARY – HUMILITY

*The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility*

**– Proverbs 15:33**

*But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven*

**– Matthew 19:14**

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# COMMENTARY – HUMILITY

Humility allows you accept and receive others – even children, who Jesus chided adults for not allowing them to come to Him.

It is also a reminder that we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to

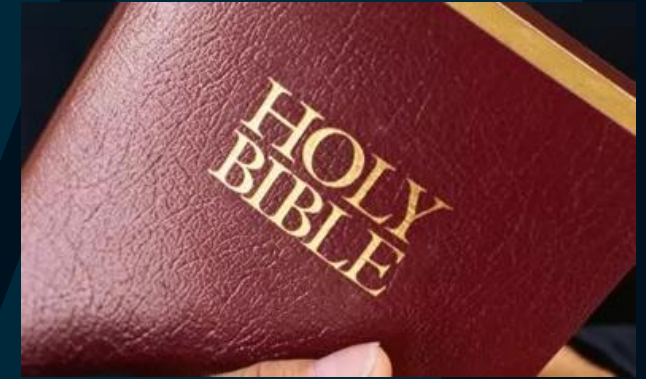


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# Lesson Text

Jesus Warns of Offenses

## Matthew 18:6 – 7 (NKJV)



<sup>6</sup> "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup> Woe to the world because of [a]offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

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# COMMENTARY – PROTECT & PREPARE

- Statistics show that young people are leaving the Church and organized religion at rapid rates.
- We may be quick to conclude that it is due to outside influences (e.g. social media) but are we prepared to have the hard discussion on our part in the divesting?
- Many of us try to **PROTECT** our children from the outside world, but do we **PREPARE** them?

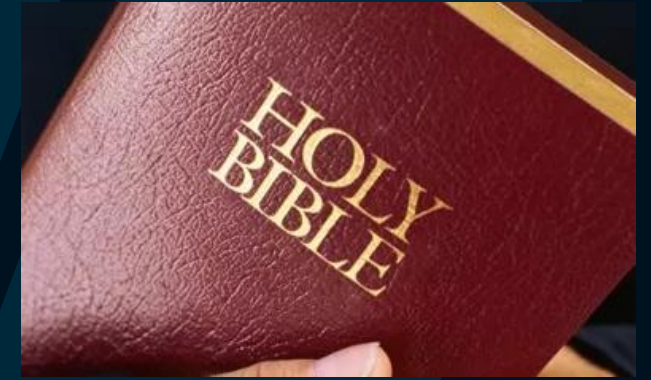
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# Lesson Text

Jesus Warns of Offenses

## Matthew 18:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire

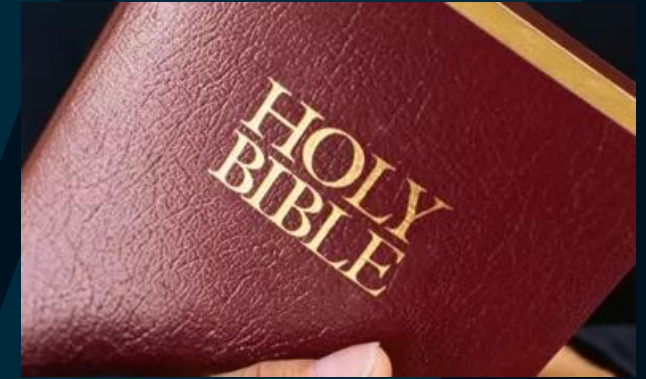


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# Lesson Text

## Jesus Warns of Offenses

### Matthew 18:9 (NKJV)



<sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into <sup>[b]</sup>hell fire.

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# COMMENTARY – KNOW YOURSELF

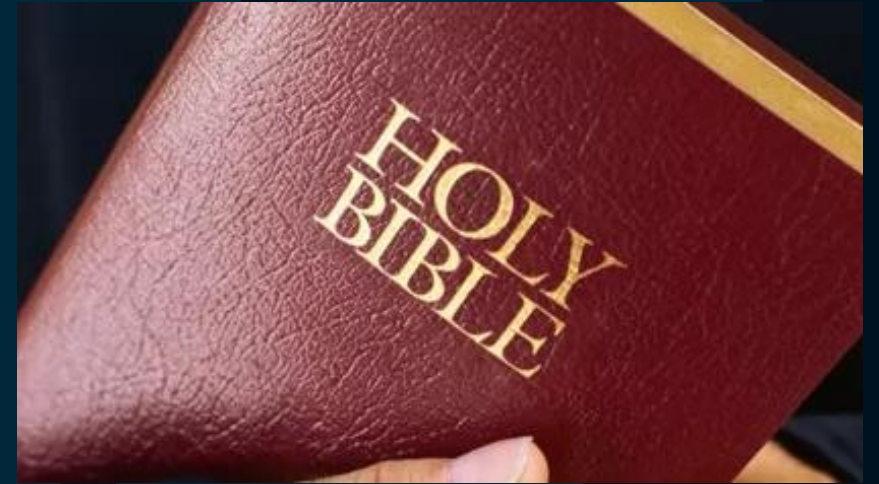
- Jesus did not mean these statements literally, as hands, feet and eyes do not sin... that is a matter of the **MIND** that uses the body to commit evil
- All of us have weaknesses – bad habits, proclivities, vices, and addictions that do not benefit us nor advance the Kingdom
- We should know ourselves enough to avoid those things that afflict us. It's all about **self-awareness**

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# Scripture References



# Romans 12:3

## Grace and Humility

# Church School Creed & Benediction

## CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow  
And we must help to make it so  
Every member a **Christian**  
Every Christian a **worker**  
Every worker **trained**  
A worker that **will not be ashamed**  
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

## BENEDICTION

We have come  
We have studied  
We have learned  
So until our next coming together  
To study God's word  
May His rich blessings reside with you  
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN