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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 15 (NT SECTION)

A. Introduction

1. In Matthew 17, Jesus predicts His own death for the forgiveness of sin.
2. In Matthew 18, we have the discourse on what the Church is to be and do.
3. In this discourse, five major points are presented: Humility, Care for the Vulnerable, Holiness, Accountability, and Radical Forgiveness.
4. Matthew 18 represents a major turning point in Jesus' ministry.
5. Matthew 18 begins with disciples asking, "What is the greatest...?"
6. Jesus says that greatness in the Kingdom is measured by how we treat "the least of these."
7. This message about a child was dynamic, for in Jesus' day, children had no legal or social status.
8. The use of a millstone in the warning would be something the people would understand.
9. A millstone would weigh anywhere between 100 and 1,000 pounds.
10. It was additionally employed as a method of capital punishment for the most serious offenders.
11. The SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE DAY is observed on the Sunday closest to January 22, the date of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision.
12. Since the *Roe* decision, more than 65,464,760+ abortions have taken place in the United States.

B. A Study of Matthew 18:1-11

The Greatness of Protecting The Least

Matthew 18:1-11

1. A solemn warning to all of us.

Matthew 18:1-4, NASB95 ⁻¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

2. When you welcome a child, you welcome Jesus.

Matthew 18:5, NASB95 ⁻⁵ "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me...."

3. When you harm a child, you'll face judgment.

Matthew 18:6-7, NASB95 ⁻⁶ "...but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of *its* stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!"

4. If you protect a child from harm, you do what God has already done.

Matthew 18:10, NASB95 ⁻¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven."

Vote "NO" on Question 6!

**In His Image • Foster the City • House of Refuge
Real Choices Women's Center (CPC) • Nevada Right to Life***

(*See important handouts from NRL at the Welcome Table.)