

Have you ever been overwhelmed by nothing in particular? You know, like nothing's especially wrong but nothing seems really right. Well, step into the light, just like we talked about last week! Don't let the darkness, the dimness stay around you. Step out of the shade and bask in The Light of Life shining out from the face of Christ! Be energized by His marvelous light and put the enemy to flight. That's your right! Let Jesus be your delight! All better? Alright! Let's get back into yesterday and take it higher!

In spite of the fact that most English translations of Matthew convert "the Kingdom of the heavens" into "The Kingdom of Heaven", and in spite of the fact that, again, for instance in Matthew, 55 of the 76 times we see "heaven" it's actually "the heavens". Even our beloved "Lord's Prayer" is "our Father in *the heavens*". So, what's up with that? Does it matter? Yes! There's a difference between "Heaven" and "the heavens". Jesus said so!

Yesterday as we talked about all of this, our primary example was Mt 18:18-20. But there was much more to see, understand, and build our faith with than just the accuracy of the text, and it cleared up some things for me that I've been wrestling with for years.

As we look at this I want you to see clearly the intertwining connection between the earth and "the heavens", and from there extending into Heaven itself. Jesus made it clear that the power of our Father is in "the heavens" and "the Kingdom of the heavens" is right here.

We spent a good deal of time developing the "Enhanced version" yesterday, but here's what we built, **"These words are true that I'm laying out for you, as much as you may decide to bind upon the earth will be bound in heaven, and as much as you may loose upon the earth will be loosed in Heaven."** (Mt 18:18)

I'm sure many of you have felt the same way that I have, that statement can be confusing. And even more so when you realize that *deo* can mean "bind" like tie someone up or "bind" like tie something together to make something stronger, and those are opposite pictures. Then *luo*, "to loose"; can mean untie like release or it could be to dissolve or fall apart. Again, opposites. And Heaven, especially to those men, would be "where God lives." So what did Jesus do? "Again"! In all the wrestling with this verse that I've done for many, many years, I'd never seen it that clear! Jesus said, "Let me say this for you in another way." He didn't say "and", He said, *again!*

**"Again, (some texts leave off the "amen") I'm laying this out for you because if two out from you harmonize together, agree together, upon the earth about (concerning) any matter, that if they call for it, it will become for them alongside My Father *en the heavens*."** (Mt 18:19) In all the years I'd never seen this before. Jesus is simply making the issue clear, rephrasing it to make it plain. And then note the "alongside". The Greek is *para*, alongside or present, with our Father "in the heavens", which is right here with us!

And then He completes the picture in a most powerful, wonderful way that should leave us full of faith with expectation of experiencing the power that exceeds physical reality or human knowledge. Jesus said that this will happen because, **"...where two or three are gathered together, assembled together, into My Name, I am there in the midst of them."** (verse 20)

We don't have to go find Him, He's right here! Signs and wonders and healings and revelation knowledge of truth, reality, should be what we experience every time we assemble ourselves together in His Name. I'm out of space, but yesterday we rehearsed the events recorded in Acts 3 and 4, ending with **"the place where they had gathered was shaken and they were all filled with The Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness!"** This is what we should expect. This is what we should experience. Let's take His Word for it!

Love never fails!

