

**1. Read** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence.  
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**How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

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Link to Liturgy**



[1] Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 (DS 800)

[2] 2 Peter 2:4

[3] Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church – Section 74

[4] Divine Office – Common of Compline

# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? Matthew 18:1-5; 10** — Pg. 1  
**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3  
**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:1-5; 10 – Roman Missal

The disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?” He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

## Spiritual Reading –Office of Readings

From Saint Bernard, abbot

*He has given his angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways. Let them thank the Lord for his mercy; his wonderful works are for the children of men. Let them give thanks and say among the nations, the Lord has done great things for them. O Lord, what is man that you have made yourself know to him, or why do you incline your heart to him? And you do incline your hear to him; you show him your care and your concern. Finally, you send your only Son and the grace of your Spirit, and promise him a vision of your countenance. And so, that nothing in heaven should be wanting in your concern for us, you send those blessed spirits to serve us, assigning them as our guardians and our teachers.*

## Guardian Angels (Protectors and Guides) – Lesson and Discussion

**What are the angels?** The angels are created beings (persons) less than God but more than human. They only have a SOUL and are invisible and immortal. If God allows, both good and bad angels can take on human form or the form of matter. (Satan took on the form of a serpent). Humans have both a BODY and a SOUL. There is a hierarchy of creation, and angels and humans are on different levels of that hierarchy:

The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

Jesus – One in being with the Father, NOT a created being. The Word made Flesh.

Angels – A created being with a soul

Humans – A created being with a body and soul

Animals – animate living thing

Plants – animate living thing

In animate object – rocks, etc

Humans and angels have immortal souls, but animals/plants/rocks have either just mortal souls or no souls what-so-ever.

**How are Angels different than humans?** "God from the beginning of time, made both kinds of creatures, spiritual and bodily, out of nothing, that is angelic and worldly." [1] A soul is (intellect/reason and free will/choice). Angel's have intellect and free will but their intellect and free will far surpasses human intellect and free will. Angels are more knowledgeable than humans and more noble or good than humans. They are also expected to do more; to whom much is given, much is expected. They are created in the image of God, but more resemble God than man because they are more perfect in intellect and will.

**Do angels know everything?** Angels are not all-knowing. They do not know future events unless they are revealed to them by God. They also do not know the mysteries of Grace, or the secrets of the heart or man or the motivations of man.

**Do angels have to be good, because they are angels?** Because they are less than God and given intellect and free will, they like humans, were free to choose God or revolt against Him. They are not robots; because they have a SOUL (intellect and free will) they may choose good or reject it.

**Why were they tested?** Because all created beings must choose God, God doesn't force us to choose or love Him. The Angels knew that God created them and they were happy in the presence of God but before THE TEST and THE FALL they did not see God face to face, the beatific vision!

**What was the test the angels were given enabling them to choose God?** We do not know the nature of the TEST but the best guess is that God revealed the future to the angels. He showed them that mankind would sin and that God would have to take on flesh (human form) to redeem mankind. Some angels, since they were created greater than man, revolted against the idea of God taking the form of lowly man and even more the fact that angels would not only have to serve man but also worship the God-Man Jesus Christ. The God-Man would be formed in the womb of a human and be born of a human. Even more revolting than the idea of God made Flesh would have been the revelation that mere matter (bread and wine) would also be turned into (Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity) to be worshiped and even received by mere humans. The angels, out of obedience would have to worship the Eucharist but never be able to receive it. It was pride that cause the angels to rebel. They refused to be obedient to God's plan in favor of their own plan. Instead of serving, lower man and being open to God becoming man, they turned toward themselves making themselves "gods". Many of the Angels, like Angel Gabriel, chose to be obedient and follow God's plan for salvation. The Angel Gabriel not only honors God, but the God made Flesh and even the Theotokos (Godbearer), when he bows down and honors Mary, saying, "Hail Mary, full of Grace."

**What happened to the Angels who rejected God?** Our first Pope, St. Peter says, "For God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus and handed them over to be kept for judgment." [2] Some of the angels "sinned". Sin is the deprivation of Good, the angels who were created in goodness, served goodness and contained all goodness. They were given the opportunity to choose goodness or deprive themselves of goodness (sin). "With a free and irrevocable choice they rejected God and his kingdom, thus giving rise to the existence of Hell." [3] God did not create hell or sin, but allowed its possibility. Satan, whose name was Lucifer, which means light-bearer. Lucifer was created by God and was the angel of light. He was the chief angel that rebelled. After the Fall, he is called Satan or the Devil and those angels who rebelled with him are called demons.

**Why didn't God give the angels whom He created a second chance?** The angels' choice was eternal because they are immortal and both their intellect and free will are not limited as in human choice. They completely know what they are choosing, make the choice to revolt freely and their choice is immediate and immortal because they have no body to limit sustain the choice, they get NO second chance. An angel lives outside of time. An angel's choice is based on eternity so the consequences are eternal. Humans as long as they are living in the temporal world, have time and so they can repent. A priest one time gave the analogy that humans are like clay being formed by the potter and while still wet and moldable they could be formed, but as soon as the clay is placed into the kiln it is fixed in place forever it cannot be changed. The kiln for us is death, when we will be what we allowed God to make of us. We should therefore cherish the time we have been given and use it to repent, choose God and stay in communion with God.

**What happened after the fall?** – The bad angels are given their punishment which is to be cast from God's presence (hell). Their new GOAL, to associate humans with their revolt against God and the rejection of God's Kingdom. The good angels are given their reward, eternal happiness. They now see God face to face and will be in His presence for eternity. They choose the GOOD, they chose GOD!

#### **What do our Guardian Angels do for us?**

They are an example and an inspiration for us. They passed the test and will do all within their power to help us follow in their footsteps (except they don't have feet) and attain everlasting happiness face to face with God. They protect us in danger and temptation (both our body and soul). During Compline (Night Prayer) we pray, "Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this habitation, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy: Let Thy holy Angels dwell herein, who may keep us in peace; and let Thy blessing be always upon us." [4] They warn us against evil. They encourage us to do good, inspire us to do good, put good thoughts in our mind and move our will toward the good. They offer our work, prayers, joys and sufferings to God. They pray for us and assist us in our works and needs. They stand by us in the hour of our death.