I. The Path between Sermon Three and Four is set with important relationship steps.

 A. One, our **relationship with spiritual authorities**, is addressed in chapter 15.

 B. Jesus’ impression of the elders in spiritual community is contrary to tradition.

 C. Here’s the **foundational thought, “The precepts of men are not doctrine.”**

 Matthew 15:9

D. The powerful **application** is, “What precepts are doctrinal for you?”

II. In Chapter 16 we need to note three steps in developing Jesus’ worldview.

 A. Faith’s Foundation is addressed in a famous request by both liberals and conservatives (Sadducees and Pharisees) in verse one.

 1. The severity and sarcasm of Jesus’ response is notable.

 B. Peter’s confession is a key ingredient in the view of the origin of sound faith:

 Matthew 16:13-20

 C. Christ’s Death is declared and Satan is again exposed in the juxtaposed reality of

 competing worldviews prevalent then and now.

III. **Sermon Three: Chapter 18, “Is There A Child Among Us?”**

A. Rank and file within the Kingdom of Heaven is always of great interest.

 1. Who even makes it and who are the winners?

 a. Note the request of the mother of James and John regarding this.

 2. Jesus proffers an unexpected answer to this question.

 a. What’s yours?

 B. Sermon three also reminds us of eternal stakes. What’s at stake?

 1. Old time religion needs to be reconsidered in our modern age of **feeling-**

 **driven thinking**,working like a devastating virus among us.

a. Eternal Damnation is no longer considered valid and certainly is not

 vogue.

 b. People’s souls are at risk at all times.

 C. **Compassion and Confrontation in Relationships** are addressed in 18:10-20.

 1. Priorities, Principles, and Patterns are established.

 a. They teach us how to think and act when offended.

 D. **Forgiveness-Based Relationships** are declared in 18:21-35.

 1. Here’s the 70x70 rule.

 2. Forgiveness is presented in a business model.

 a. This is sound doctrine that overrides emotion regarding forgiveness.

 b. Do we have this worldview? Is forgiveness still emotional for us?

 c. If so, you know what to change. It’s your head, rather than your

 heart first.

**Praise Medley:** “We Have Come into His House”

“He is Lord” and “We Exalt Thee”

On Reverse Side

**We Have Come into His House**

**1.** We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him.

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him.

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord,
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

**2**. So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him.
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Christ the Lord,
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

**3.** Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Him.
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Christ the Lord,
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

**He is Lord**

He is Lord, He is Lord
He has risen from the dead
And He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

You are Lord, You are Lord.
You have risen from the dead
And You are Lord.
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

**We Exalt Thee**

For Thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth,
Thou art exalted far above all gods.
For Thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth,
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

We exalt Thee, we exalt Thee
We exalt Thee, O Lord.
We exalt Thee, we exalt Thee
We exalt Thee, O Lord.