

## **Forgiveness and Prayer**

### **Matthew 18:15-20**

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### **Text:**

**Matthew 18:15-20,**

**15. Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou has gained thy brother.**

**16. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**

**17. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**

**18. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall Be loosed in heaven.**

**19. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

**20. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

### **Commentary:**

**I. If your Christian brother/sister sins against you, which should you do?**

**A. Gossip/talk despairingly about him to everybody who will listen?**

**B. Do him a worse harm than he did to you?**

**C. Go to him alone and sincerely try, really try to resolve the problem in the spirit of Christ!**

II. If you are successful in this you have retained your brother/sister as a Christian friend.

- A. The best way to rid yourself of enemies is to make friends of them.
- B. The first meeting may or may not be successful.
- C. If the first meeting is not successful, then what?

III. Take two or three witnesses to a second meeting for verification of the facts.

- A. What if the offender will not see you? . . . won't come to the door?
- B. Should we take our friends/buddies as witnesses? . . . or impartial arbitrators?
- C. If the second meeting is not successful in resolving the problem, then what?

IV. The matter is then to be reported to the whole church/congregation which will do its best to resolve the problem.

- A. The church had not been established at the time Jesus made these statements but he clearly intended these procedures to be followed in the church/Greek: congregation.

B. Scriptures:

- 1. **Matthew 5:23-26, Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the**

**altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift, Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.**

- 2. Galatians 6:1, Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.**
- 3. Galatians 2:11, But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.**
- 4. Acts 13:9, 10, Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost (Spirit), set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?**
- 5. Titus 3:10, A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;**
- 6. 1 Timothy 5:20, Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.**

C. If the offender still is not repentant following the full effort of the church, the church is to treat him as the Jews ordinarily treated a Gentile and a publican; that is, as a persona non grata.

- 1. Fellowship with the offender is to be terminated.**

2. However, he is not to be counted as an enemy. The door for a possible later reconciliation is to be kept open.

V. Whatever the apostles (not just Peter) bound on earth would be bound in heaven.

- A. Inversely what the disciples loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven.
- B. This evidently referred to the matter just discussed; that is, the reconciling of disciples that had become estranged.
- C. Of course, this statement is also true of all apostolic matters as they were guided by the Holy Spirit.

VI. If two disciples agree to petition the Father about a matter, it will be granted by the Heavenly Father.

- A. Greater efficacy results from fervent group prayer than from individual prayer.
  1. When sick, etc., we ask for the prayers of others believing this to be beneficial.
- B. This is especially easy to understand when applied to two estranged disciples who have agreed on reconciliation and who fervently pray to God for their forgiveness and restoration.

VII. Where two or three are gathered together in the Lord's name, he promises to be there also.

- A. **Revelation 1:12, 13, And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the**

**Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.**

B. Jesus is providentially in spirit present with all saints worldwide (and in outer space).

1. When astronauts "lift off" they do not escape Christ.

2. Remember Jonah?

C. Jesus is not just "up there" somewhere. He is right here among the faithful whether many or few!

## Forgiveness and Prayer

### Questions

1. If our \_\_\_\_\_ against us,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his  
\_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
alone. If he \_\_\_\_\_ you, you have \_\_\_\_\_ you, you have  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

2. How seldom do we obey this command? \_\_\_\_\_ Do we  
more often tell everybody except the offender? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. If the offender will not listen to you, take \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_ more that in the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ every word  
may be established.

4. If the offender doesn't listen to the offended and his witnesses, we are  
to tell it to the \_\_\_\_\_. If he doesn't hear the  
\_\_\_\_\_ he is to be treated as an \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ on earth will be \_\_\_\_\_  
in \_\_\_\_\_. Whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ on earth will be  
\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

6. If \_\_\_\_\_ disciples agree on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
touching anything that they shall \_\_\_\_\_, it shall be done for  
them of my \_\_\_\_\_ which is in \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Where \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ are gathered  
\_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_, there am I in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

8. When has an offender - offended problem been brought before the church for resolution (in your experience)? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Where can we go to escape God? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. The best way to rid ourselves of \_\_\_\_\_ is to make  
\_\_\_\_\_ of them!