

Matthew 18:15-35

When Someone Sins (15-17)

- ◆ “If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that ‘every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses,’ as the scripture says. And if he will not listen to them, then tell the whole thing to the church. Finally, if he will not listen to the church, treat him as though he were a pagan or a tax collector.
- ◆ Do not let a wrong done to you eat you up, go to the person and tell them how the wronged you. In so doing we make peace with the other party that’s if they accept their wrong doing. If they defend their wrong, don’t give up on them yet rather try hard to win them back and make peace. This attitude of not giving up on making peace is what we need to learn or build, we lack in this regard yet our Lord is good at this. We should try with all our effort to make peace with the other party despite their rotten attitude. The Lord never gives up on us despite the numerous time we wrong him, he wants us to repent and make peace with him. If the person who has wronged us defends their position when we try to resolve our issue in private, we have to find witnesses to go to him/her with. If they still insist on their position we then tell the whole church and if they still hold on to their wrong deed then we can safely write them off. Let’s not give up on each other easily but strive with all effort to make peace.

Prohibiting and Permitting (18-20)

- ◆ “And so I tell all of you: what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. “And I tell you more: whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.”
- ◆ We’re connected to the heaven hence what we prohibit or permit on earth is also prohibited or permitted in heaven. When people (2 or more) agree on something they should pray about it, our father in heaven will allow that thing to happen. When 2 or more are gathered and have included the Lord in the gathering, he will be there. We need to pray or somehow include the Lord in any gathering we do. Everything we do should be commenced by prayer.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (21-35)

- ◆ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?” “No, not seven times,” answered Jesus, “but seventy times seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants’ accounts. He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before the king. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay you everything!’ The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go. “Then the man went out and met one of his fellow

servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said. His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. So he called the servant in. 'You worthless slave!' he said. 'I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.' The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should pay back the whole amount." And Jesus concluded, "That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

- ◆ The moral of this story is to forgive unconditionally. We wrong our Lord always and he forgives us when we ask for mercy. The same should apply to our fellows, we should forgive them when they ask for mercy. This is not an easy task but we should try, if we ask the Lord he will help us. In verse 15-17 we heard of writing off those who refuse that they wronged us and now here we're being taught to forgive those who ask for forgiveness.