

LESSON 12 THE TRANSFIGURATION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Forgiveness
Matthew 18:15-35

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

Key takeaways:

- **Resolve sin and offenses at the lowest level and with the fewest number of people knowing** (verse 15). *“If he listens to you, you have won your brother.”*
- **Facts and truth are of utmost importance.** It’s what actually took place (verse 16).
- **The manner of presenting and receiving is critically important.**
- **Reconciliation and forgiveness doesn’t take place without listening** (cf. James 1:19) on both sides, to the word of God and each other. (Joshua 22)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18)

A similar statement is made in **Matthew 16:19** after Peter’s confession and speaks of their authority on earth to **“bind”** what has **“been bound in heaven.”**

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Bound” – “to bind, tie, fasten.” (Thayer)

“Loosed” – “to loose one bound, i.e., to unbind, release from bonds, set free” (Thayer) (Matthew 21:2; Luke 3:16; Acts 2:24)

- **What is being discussed?**
- The binding or loosing of sin. (John 20:23; **Acts 8:23**; Luke 4:18)
- When a child of God listens to those who come to him with the word of God, and we extend our forgiveness to him because of his repentance, we need to know that God has extended His forgiveness to him because he has obeyed the will God. (2 **Corinthians 2:5-10**; 7:10-11; 1 John 1:9-10; Acts 8:22-24)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19)

Anything?

Contextually, what would the requests be for?

Forgiveness.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

It is in this context of following the will of God regarding the forgiveness of man’s sins and offenses that Jesus says in verse 20, ***“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”***

The expression **“in My name”** is to be understood as **“by My authority”** or **“in accordance with My will.”**

(John 16:23-26; Colossians 3:17)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

☐ MATTHEW 18:15-35

When two or three are gathered to do that which Jesus has authorized (i.e., to forgive the sins of a brother who repents), Jesus stated that He is **“in their midst”** and we are in **fellowship** (jointly participating) with our Lord and Savior.

God indeed is “omni-present” but that’s not the point here: God is “there” when I’m alone or when I’m with others, fully aware of my every thought, word, and (in)action.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

☐ MATTHEW 18:15-35

Regarding the approach towards a brother in sin that Jesus just taught, Peter had a question:

“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” (Matthew 18:21)

Is there a limit to our mercy and compassion?
(cf. Luke 17:3-4)

Is there to God’s?

Numerology: what does the number 7 represent?

- Completeness, totality.