

LESSON 12 THE TRANSFIGURATION

SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

Forgiveness
Matthew 18:15-35

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

The preceding context for verses 15-35 is that of **the Lord's desire to seek the sinner** (verses 12-14; even the despised), **and to seek reconciliation, so that no one perishes.**

Jesus now teaches of **our responsibility to seek the sinner who has gone astray and seek reconciliation** with him.

Jesus **defines** when **reconciliation** takes place and when man is **free from the bondage of his sin.**

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

Beginning with verse 7, Jesus is teaching about:

- **The seriousness of sin** and the need to do everything possible to prevent it (**verses 7-11**; Matthew 5:29-30),
- **The need to seek those lost in sin** (**verses 12-14**; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20),
- **The need for forgiveness of sin** (**verses 21-35**; Psalms 130:3-4).

Why would we think that verses 15-20 are talking about God being with us while we're pursuing fleshly pursuits?

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

An often misapplied text (verses 19-20 in particular):

- How do many apply verses 19-20?
- Used by many to excuse themselves from the assembly of the church – so they can engage in secular activities on the first day of the week.
- Others use this verse to justify the practice of serving the Lord's Supper to others outside of the assembly.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

The **immediate context of verses 15-20** – Jesus is addressing our **personal responsibility** to:

- **Seek a brother/sister who has sinned**, our efforts to restore them (cf. Galatians 6:1), and
- **Understand when we are to forgive them**
 - (When he *"listens"* and repents)
- **Understand when we are to consider him as a "Gentile and tax-gatherer"**
 - (When *"he refuses to listen"* and repent).

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

Jesus teaches **4 steps** in seeking the *"brother"* who has gone astray and is perishing:

- 1) *"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."* (Matthew 18:15)

Some manuscripts add *"... sins against you ..."*

Does it matter?

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Go and show” - How?

- (Leviticus 19:17; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Thessalonians 3:15)
- Quietly, discreetly, humbly in order to bring the sin to light and expose the fault.

“... You have won your brother.”

Our only aim or purpose!

The word ***“brother”*** indicates a familial relationship with an obedient believer.

The word ***“won”*** indicates the current state of being lost.

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18:15-35

“Go and show” -

What are some qualities that are needed to fulfill this command?