

LESSON 12
 THE TRANSFIGURATION
 SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Forgiveness
 Matthew 18:15-35

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

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?

What else is imperative that we **"go and show"** with?

The scriptures!

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

- 2) ***“But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.”*** (Matthew 18:16)
- Principle of the Old Law. (Deuteronomy 19:15)
 - What’s the reason for bringing *“one or two more with you”*?
 - Not to intimidate or pressure - rather to establish and confirm the ***“facts.”***
 - Again, the focus should be on the scriptures and not opinion or tradition. (cf. Matthew 15:1-2)
 - What if there aren’t *“one or two more ... witnesses”*?

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

- 3) ***“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church ...”*** (Matthew 18:17)
- The facts have already established or confirmed.**
The sinning brother has first had the opportunity to:
- Hear from the offended brother and witnesses.
- Why *“tell it to the church”*?**
Fodder for gossip? (2 Corinthians 12:20; Proverbs 20:19)
- What is *“the church”* to do with this?**
The manner to be done: Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:15.
Important to remember the original goal: **to win our brother.**

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

- 4) ***“... if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”*** (Matthew 18:17)
- The facts have already been established/confirmed and shared with the local congregation.
- Now, he is given the opportunity to ***“listen ... to the church.”***
- Who specifically is speaking for *“the church”*?
Elders, preacher, all the members.
- Yet, and especially at this point, the purpose must be restated: **to win your brother. In order to accomplish that ...**

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

- 4) ***“... let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”*** (Matthew 18:17; Matthew 9:11; Acts 10:28)
- Addressed by Paul in: 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Corinthians 5:1-11.
 - ***“Keep away from”*** (2 Thessalonians 3:6)
 - ***“Do not associate with him”*** (2 Thessalonians 3:14)
 - ***“... not to associate with any so-called brother ...”*** (1 Corinthians 5:11)

SIN AND FORGIVENESS

□ MATTHEW 18:15-35

- 4) ***“... let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”*** (Matthew 18:17)
- Purpose:
 - Bring the sinner to the point of being ashamed of his sin with the will to repent. (2 Thessalonians 3:14; Jeremiah 6:15)
 - **To save his soul!** (1 Corinthians 5:5)
 - We are to ***“reaffirm our love”*** to the one who repents. (2 Corinthians 2:8)
 - Preserve the purity of the church. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 1 Timothy 5:20)

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** on both sides (cf. James 1:19), to the word of God and each other. (Joshua 22)