

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
Class #240 – Tuesday PM May 27, 2008

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 18:15-35 The Lord deals with forgiveness.

To establish the preceding context -

1. The location was at Peter's house in Capernaum (**Mark 9:33**).



2. The disciples had an argument on their trip from Caesarea-Philippi to Capernaum as to who would be greatest in the Messianic Kingdom when Jesus Christ established it (**Mark 9:33-34 cf. Luke 9:46**).
3. They also became a hindrance to a fellow believer fulfilling God's will (**Mark 9:38; Luke 9:49**).
 - a. That believer was the one casting out demons in the name of Jesus.
 - b. Because he was not following the disciples and doing something that they had failed to do (**Luke 9:40**) they told him to stop.

This is the background for everything the Lord taught them in **Matt 18:3-35**.

Matthew 18:15-18 "If your brother sins,

- ἐάν + ἀμαρτάνω - HAMARTANO – To sin
- Translated: ***If your brother should commit sin. . .***
- The disciples should expect to have a fellow believer commit wrongdoing (sin against them).

. . . go and show him . . .

- Two imperatives they are responsible to fulfill –
 - **ὑπάγω** – **HUPAGO** – *To go*
 - **ἐλέγχω** – **ELEGCHO** - *To convict; to rebuke or convince; to point something out*

. . . his fault in private . . .

Literally - ***between you and him alone***

Please observe the Lord respects the privacy of the sinner – that is GRACE!

Why would one who is sinned against go and point out the guilty party's wrongdoing?

- Because fellowship needs to be restored between siblings.
- Jesus Christ despises division among believers (**1 Cor. 1:10; 11:18-19; 12:25**).
- Jesus Christ even prayed in **John 17:11** that believers may be one.
- The brother who has been hurt in this case is the one the Lord commands to initiate.
- The purpose is to repair the fellowship which has been broken.

. . . if he listens to you, you have **won** your brother.

- **Won** – **κερδαίνω** – **KERDAINO** – *To gain; to avoid loss (of your brother); profited.*

¹⁶ **“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.**

- **Deuteronomy 19:15** “A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.”
- According to the Mosaic Law, it required two or more witnesses to convict.

¹⁷ **“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. . .**

Progressive Revelation – the Lord reveals things over time!

- This is in accordance with Church Age doctrine taught in **1 Tim. 5:20**.
- **1 Timothy 5:20** Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.
 - **ἐλέγχω** again - *To expose or bring to light*
 - This rebuke is the responsibility of the Shepherd-Teacher.
 - This is only to be done after the individual has been approached twice **Matt. 18:15-17**.

- 1st time: in private - refusal to listen
- 2nd time: in the presence of two or three witnesses with a refusal to listen

Matthew 18:19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder (*shepherd/pastor-teachers who preach and teach assemblies of believers in the body of Christ is mentioned in vs. 17*) **except on the basis of two or three witnesses.**

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

Red Wine – Heart Health benefits?

Many studies investigating the benefits of red wine suggested that a moderate amount of red wine (one drink a day for women and two drinks a day for men) lowers the risk of heart attack for people in middle age by ~ 30 to 50 percent. It is also suggested that alcohol such as red wine may prevent additional heart attacks if you have already suffered from one. Other studies also indicated that red wine can raise HDL cholesterol (the Good cholesterol) and prevent LDL cholesterol (the Bad cholesterol) from forming. Red wine may help prevent blood clots and reduce the blood vessel damage caused by fat deposits. Indeed, studies showed that people from the Mediterranean region who regularly drank red wine have lower risks of heart disease

Red wine is a particularly rich source of antioxidants flavonoid phenolics, so many studies to uncover a cause for red wine's effects have focused on its phenolic constituents, particularly resveratrol and the flavonoid. Resveratrol, found in grape skins and seeds, increases HDL cholesterol and prevents blood clotting. Flavonoids, on the other hand, exhibit antioxidant properties helping prevent blood clots and plaque's formation in arteries.

If you want to read more - www.healthcastle.com/redwine-heart.shtml

Remember that God's word states in **Ephesians 5:18** that we are to not get drunk with wine.

Matt 18:15 The believer is commanded to approach the offender alone. If the offender confesses his wrongdoing, as per **James 5:16**, all is forgiven and the matter is resolved.

Matt 18:16 If the believer refuses to listen, take two or three witnesses. If the offender confesses his wrongdoing as per **James 5:16**, all is forgiven and the matter is resolved.

Matt 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church . . .

- This implies that the two or three witnesses have approached the pastor on the matter and the pastor deals with it from the pulpit as per **1 Timothy 5:20** exposing the one who continues to sin in the presence of all.
- If the offender confesses his wrongdoing as per **James 5:16**, all is forgiven and the matter is resolved.

But . . . if he refuses to listen even to the church (via the pastor's rebuke), **let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.**

- The Gentile was excluded from temple worship.
- The tax collector or revenue officer was barred from fellowship outside the temple.

- Therefore, the believer who refuses to listen (continues in sin without confessing it) is to be excluded from church services and the fellowship of believers outside the church.
- Paul practiced this type of discipline in **1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 12:20-13:2; 1 Tim. 1:20.**

The disciples would be given the authority to administer that discipline when the church began according to **Matt 18:18.**

Matt 18:18-20 “Truly I say to you,

- **σὺ – SU – Y’all**

“Truly I say to *you all* . . .

It’s not limited to Peter, as in **Matt 16:19**, where He told Peter He would give him “**the keys of the kingdom of heaven.**”

- That authority will be given to all the disciples!

. . . **whatever *y’all bind* (forbid) on earth shall have *already been forbidden* in heaven . . .**

- The apostles had the authority to forbid things through their teaching, preaching, rebuking, and exhorting, all under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit.
- They had the authority to forbid a believer who refused to confess his sin from fellowshiping in an assembly of believers.

. . . **and whatever you loose (set free or allow or permit) on earth shall have already been loosed in heaven.**

- In this passage, the binding and loosing [*forbidding & allowing*] was accomplished first in heaven by God the Father, then executed by the apostles with their apostolic authority.
- So whatever they forbid or permitted for the church was directed from God in heaven FIRST.
- There was great power when they would pray in agreement together.

¹⁹ “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.

- They could come before the Lord in prayer with questions about discipline – what they should permit or what they should forbid!
- They could question how to deal with matters and they would receive answers from God.

²⁰ “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

- This refers to after His departure via death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

POD: Two or three believers in formation and agreement have greater strength than a battalion who assemble not and agree not.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near **with confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

The Pharisees taught that if you forgave someone two times you were considered righteous!

Three times and you were super-righteous!

- Peter is really going the extra mile in his mind because the Pharisees taught that if someone sinned against you, you only had to forgive them twice to be righteous.
- But the Pharisees knew nothing about the forgiveness of God and neither does Peter – so the Lord teaches him.

²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

- Forgive your brother up to 490 times.
- Forgive up to the end of the age.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

POD: God’s forgiveness is unlimited as long as one meets the conditions prerequisite for forgiveness.

Unbeliever’s prerequisite: Acts 10:43 “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who **believes** in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Believer’s prerequisite: 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Luke 17:3 “Be on your guard!

Pay attention to this among yourselves – take heed!

If your brother sins [and he probably will], rebuke him [go to him and tell him]; and if he repents [changes his mind], forgive him.”

Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

μετανοέω – to change one’s mind. Therefore, forgiveness is in order and that is grace!

- God forgives us every time we repent!
- God never ceases to forgive us!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.