

## Matthew 18:15-20 **Attempt of the Offended toward Reconciliation**

### What to do when your brother sins against you

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

### Bind and Loose on Earth and in Heaven

18 Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

### Two agree on Earth it will be done

19 Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

#### What to do when your brother sins against you [Matthew 18:15-17, Luke 17:3-4]

- ✚ When you have been offended by your brother.
  - ✧ Approach him privately and let him know the injury he caused.
    - ✧ If he hears you, you have gained your brother back in a reconciled good relationship.
  - ✧ If he refuses to listen to you, the deed was deliberate.
    - ✧ Take one or two witnesses and approach him again that every word may be established.
  - ✧ If he refuses to listen to you and the witnesses, tell it to the church.
  - ✧ If he refuses to hear the church, let him be to you as an unbeliever and a tax collector. He may then be evangelized in an attempt to win him to the faith, but he may not be accepted as a brother in the Lord until he is converted.
  - ✧ Like with God, forgiveness is based on repentance.

#### Bind and Loose on Earth and in Heaven

- ✚ Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. [Matthew 18:18]
- ✚ This is the same as the teaching of the Keys of the Kingdom. [Matthew 13:11, and 16:19]
  - ✧ Working under the authority of Jesus and His Word and in keeping with it, what ever is bound on earth is bound in Heaven, and whatever is loosed on earth is loosed in Heaven, so the binding and loosing on earth is patterned after that which is in Heaven as revealed by Holy Scripture. [Matthew 13:11, 16:19, Matthew 18:15-20, Luke 8:10]
  - ✧ This does not give us any more than it gave Peter an arbitrary permission to go on his own and bind and loose as he feels impulsively to do, but rather, the authority to bring the revelation of the Gospel of the Kingdom in keeping with the revelations provided by God the Word and the Holy Spirit.
  - ✧ We see this in practice in the messages and writings of Peter in the book of Acts and the epistles that bear his name.
  - ✧ Peter faithfully preached the Kingdom of Heaven and interpreted the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he successfully addressed the ones who had crucified Jesus, and showed them the way into the Kingdom. [Acts 2:14-40]

- ✧ He addressed the ones who opposed the Gospel of the Kingdom, stood against the false teachers that came his way. [Acts 4:1-22]
- ✧ He worked miracles and healed the lame. [Acts 3:1-62, 5:12-16]
- ✧ He boldly took his stand as obedient to God and not to man. [Acts 4:9, 5:29-32]
- ✧ Peter gave excellent instructions for living the Christian life as we are looking for the return of the Lord and the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✧ And God worked with Peter, even freeing him from prison miraculously. [Acts 5:17-42, 12:1-19]
- ✧ Peter also took the Gospel of the Kingdom to Cornelius the Roman Centurion, and acknowledged that God had granted repentance to life to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews. [Acts 10:1-48, 11:1-18]
- ✧ Today we must do the same working under the authority of the Scriptures and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then we also will be able to bind and loose according to the will of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Two agree on Earth it will be done** [Matthew 18:19]

- ✧ James warned against careless requests by saying, “You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” [James 4:3]
- ✧ Then as we are working together under the authority of the Scriptures with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we may rest with the assurance that what two agree on as being in line with the will of God according to Scripture, anything we ask will be done. [John 15:7-8]
- ✧ God said that anything we ask according to His will, we will receive what we ask for. [1 John 5:14-15]
- ✧ Jesus gave us this assurance, that “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” [Matthew 18:20]