

I Just Want to Be Right

Matthew 18:15-20: ¹⁵ 'If another member of the church^[d] sins against you,^[e] go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.^[f] ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Giving honor to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Giving honor to the sons, daughters, and children of God. Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ. As we look at today's text, Matthew 18:15-20, our didactic sermon topic is "I Just Want to be Right."

I feel inclined to begin with a few interrogatives today, in an effort to help center us into the message. Have you ever had a situation where someone in the church has offended or sinned against you? Have you ever witnessed someone in the church who seemed to have an attitude, or they acted differently when you came around? Have you ever witnessed a case where someone may have said something about you that was negative, false, or the context in which they acted around you, made you feel uncomfortable or for some reason or another, it seemed that they just didn't like you? Am I getting close to your street? Am I at least in your neighborhood or in your community this morning? Beloved, the reality is according to Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." If we are honest with ourselves, there are times when all of us have missed the mark and come up short. Can I get a witness? The reality is we have all sinned. In fact, If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1John 1:8) The wages of sin is death, but can I tell you something... the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23) And I came to share with you this morning that "I just want to be right." Being right simply means that you, me, he, she... we need to be on the Lord's side. I'm so thankful that Jesus shares with us a blue print on how we need to deal with each other in the church. Look at yourself in the mirror and say "I just want to be right."

Firstly, if another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. This is a private conversation and it's a conversation done with respect and love. If the member listens to you, you have regained that brother or sister. It takes courage to share in this manner with your brother or sister so be in prayer as you

are engaging in reconciliation ministry, which is a testament to the new birth of Christ working in you. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 the word says "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. We can do this because God has entrusted us with the gift of reconciliation.

Secondly, if the brother or sister does not listen to you, the Lord says "take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. (Matthew 18:16) This is a blessing because everyone can have a detailed discussion of what the Word of God says about the situation, circumstance, and they can apply that word to their lives. It is a Living Word. Good God Almighty. The Word of God will find you and it will find everyone else. God will show up. The scripture teaches that where two or three are gathered together in the name of Lord, He is right there with them. (Matthew 18:20) Hallelujah to the lamb of God.

Thirdly, sometimes brothers and sisters can be stubborn. So, if the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. The pastor, ministers, musicians, stewards, trustees, missionaries, lay, YPD, choir members, ushers, etc. Everyone can go into prayer and apply the word of God to the situation, in an effort to reconcile the individual(s) to Christ. But if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector.

In closing, The Lord's love and grace is still flowing as Jesus encourages us to work together in unity, in love, and to stick together. How do you know that you might ask? Thank you I'm glad you did, because in Matthew 18:18-20 the Lord talks about binding power and loosing power. He said "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. I'm coming on in now. I see a landing strip. God is Good; All the Time and All the Time; God is Good. Big Bethel, when you see me singing my song, I just want to be right. When you see me walking along, I just want to be right. Let me tell you, say "Right, I just want to be right. Right, I just want to be right. When you see me singing, I just want to be right. When you see me testifying, I just want to be right. When you see me giving God the praise, I just want to be right. When you see me worshiping the Lord, I just want to be right. Glory to the Lamb of God. Won't He Do It. Hallelujah, He's Alright. Hallelujah, Amen.