

AT THE MASTER'S FEET:
A study of Jesus' Sermons in the Gospel of Matthew
AMEN Bible Study 2012-2013

THE MASTER'S FAMILY: THE RECONCILED LIFE

HELPING YOUR BROTHER – Accountability

Matthew 18:10-20

March 14, 2013

18:10-14 I. We must pursue wandering brothers.

:10 A. His sheep are dear to Him.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

:12-13 B. All His sheep are dear to Him.

“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.”

:14 C. They must be dear to us.

“So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”

If they are truly dear to us, we will:

- ◆ Get to know them and their needs.
- ◆ Develop a genuine affection for them.
- ◆ Seek them out.
- ◆ Ask good questions and listen carefully.
- ◆ Clearly state your concern.
- ◆ Persevere.

:15-17a II. We must confront erring brothers.

:15 A. We confront privately.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.”

Steps to take:

- ◆ pray
- ◆ humble yourself (cf. Galatians 6:1, 2)
- ◆ state concerns clearly
- ◆ listen carefully, judge liberally
- ◆ restore gently
- ◆ give adequate time

:16 B. We bring others if needed.

“But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.”

Things to consider:

- ◆ explain to offending brother your process and your intentions
- ◆ select third party carefully
- ◆ pray

:17a C. We tell it to the church.

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

1. The purpose of church discipline:

- a. the glory of God
cf. Joshua 7:19
- b. the edification of the Church
cf. Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:7, 12; 21:21; 22:21, 22, 24; I Corinthians 5: 6, 7

- c. the restoration of the member
cf. I Corinthians 5:5; II Corinthians 2:6-8

2. The scope of church discipline:

MODE OF DISCIPLINE	TYPE OF DISCIPLINE	
	Encouragement	Correction
Informal	<i>Informal encouragement</i>	<i>Informal correction</i>
Formal	<i>Formal encouragement</i>	<i>Formal correction</i>

18:17b-20 III. We must censure contumacious brothers.

:17b

A. We live according to God's will.

"And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

cf. I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14; Titus 3:10; II John 10, 11

Four church censures:

- ◆ admonition
- ◆ suspension from the Table
- ◆ disposition from office
- ◆ excommunication

:18

B. We discipline with God's authority.

"Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

cf. Matthew 16:19; John 20:23

:19

C. We discern in God's community.

"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

cf. I Corinthians 6:1-8; I Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:7, 17

:20

D. We act in God's presence.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

cf. I Corinthians 5:4