

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew 18:15-35

INTRODUCTION

I. THE COURSE OF DISCIPLINE, verses 18:15-18

A. What *actions* do we undertake to address a brother's sin? verses 15-17

1. Confrontation of a brother

Ephesians 4:25, *"...speaking the truth in love..."*
Galatians 6:1, *"Brothers, if someone is caught in sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself or you also may be tempted.."*

2. Confirmation with witnesses

Deuteronomy 19:15 taught the *"one witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."*

3. Communication to the church

Matthew 16:18, *"I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

4. Consideration of the unrepentant

I Corinthians 5:9ff Paul has strong words for the sexually immoral, *"...you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother, but is sexually immoral..."* or *greedy, an idolater, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat...Expel the wicked man from among you."*

B. By what *authority* do we act? verse 18

1. The prerogative for *"binding"* and *"loosing"* on earth

2. The principle behind *"binding"* and *"loosing"* in heaven

II. THE CONFIDENCE OF UNITY IN PRAYER, verses 18:19,20

A. The *virtue* of agreement in prayer

B. The *value* of His presence

III. THE CALL FOR A FORGIVING SPIRIT, verses 18:21-35

A. The *longevity* of a forgiving spirit

B. The *link* to a forgiving spirit (The Parable)

C. The *legacy* of a forgiving spirit

Ephesians 4:32, *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each, other just as in Christ, God forgave you."*

Colossians 3:13, "Bear with each other and forgive what ever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you..."

CHALLENGE