

Out Of Context

Week 2: Jesus' Guide On Dealing Well With Sin

Weekly Summary: These words are a comforting punchline when barely anyone shows up for church. But make sure to read the context! Jesus spoke these words at the end of his message on dealing with sin in the church. He offered a great comfort to churches that do the hard work of dealing with sin, warning the hard hearted, and practices church discipline. He is with them, even in those agonizing conversations with those who are clutching their own sin.

- ◆ Matthew 18:15a - "If your brother or sister sins..."

- ◆ What are the 4 stages of dealing with sin?
 - A. Stage 1 - **Go** and **show** (on the **down low**).
Matthew 18:15 - "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."

 - B. Stage 2 - **Go** and **show** (but not **solo**).
Matthew 18:16 - "But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"

 - C. Stage 3 - **Go** and let the **church** know.
Matthew 18:17a - "If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church;..."

 - D. Stage 4 - **Go** and let the **unbeliever** know.
Matthew 18:17b - "...and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

- ◆ Why do we follow the 4 stages of dealing with sin?
 - A. Answer: **Love**.

B. Matthew 18:18 - "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."

◆ Where is Jesus during the 4 stages of dealing with sin?

A. Mathew 18:19-20 - "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

B. Big Idea: But **GOD** is **here**!

Points to Ponder

1. Have you ever seen/witnessed/experienced the process that Jesus describes in Matthew 18:15-20? If so, what happened? Having studied Jesus' words, should anything have been done differently?
2. Compare 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 with 2 Corinthians 2:5-11. How did Paul urge the Corinthians to put Jesus' words into action?
3. Evaluate: It is just as hard to continually forgive a struggling sinner as it is to confront a Christian who is not struggling with sin. (Bonus: Read the rest of Matthew 18 and see how Jesus' friend, Peter, reacted to this teaching.)

Homework For Next Week: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*"The ones who disappoint you need you the most."
~ Jack Hyles*