

PROBLEM SOLVING IN THE ἐκκλησία AND BEYOND! MT. 18:15-20

What does the Lord have to say about problems?

1. (There will always be) **Problems to solve!**

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass (ἀμαρτήση) against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

The Lord lays out basic truths about life:

- People might sin against you
- You will need to solve those problems in some fashion
- All things being equal...you can solve the problems

Sadly we face 2 bigger problems:

- Most of us don't expect problems

Job 5:7 Yet man is born unto trouble, As the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman Is of few days, and full of trouble.

2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: 2 Timothy 4:15 Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

1 Timothy 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is **none** righteous, **no, not one**:

Romans 3:11 There is **none** that understandeth, there is **none** that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are **all** gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is **none** that doeth good, **no, not one**.

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Romans 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Romans 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Romans 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Romans 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

Romans 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

- Many of us let / allow problems to fester when we only have 3 options...

2. A **Process to follow!**

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault **between thee** (μεταξὺ σοῦ καὶ αὐτοῦ)

and him alone (μόνου): if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take

with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

18:15

- Go
- Talk
- Privately / personally
- Alone

Proverbs 25:9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour **himself**; And **discover not** a secret to another: Proverbs 25:10 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, And thine infamy turn not away.

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: **But** he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 20:19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: **Therefore** meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

- Hoping he / she / they will actually listen

18:16 If not

Include witnesses / other people /other people (group of 2-3 people)

Numbers 35:30 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death **by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not** testify against any person to cause him to die.

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; **but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.**

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Matthew 26:60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

John 8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, **but before two or three witnesses.**

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy **under two or three witnesses:**

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: **and these three are one. 1**

John 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: **and these three agree in one.**

18:17 If not again... take it to the church.

3. Purposes to achieve

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, **thou hast gained thy brother.** **Matthew 18:16** But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses **every word may be established.** **Matthew 18:17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: **but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.**

I generally find this text is:

- Unknown
- Disobeyed → simply, I'm not doing it
- Misapplied → to &/ for church d

Purposes:

- Gaining a hearing
- Gaining your brother / sister
- Gaining the truth
- Gaining a common understanding &/ standing
- Gaining an opportunity for the gospel

4. Promises to claim!

Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **Matthew 18:19** Again (Πάλιν) I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree (συμφωνήσωσιν) on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. **Matthew 18:20** For (γάρ) where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

All of us are wiser than any one of us!

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Gathered together | In His name |
| For His purposes | In His presence |
| According to His Word | |

