Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 18:15–20: A Brother Who Sins

Jesus said to his disciples: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, 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. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Focus Questions

1. What does Jesus first say you should do, if your brother, that is, someone who is close to you, sins, or commits some wrong, against you?
2. What does Jesus say will happen if your brother listens to you?
3. What should you do if your brother does not listen to you?
4. What does Jesus say happens to those things that His disciples bind and loose on earth?
5. What will happen if two of Jesus’ disciples agree on what they are to pray?
6. What will happen where two or three are gathered in Jesus’ name?
**Fraternal Correction Scenarios**

**Directions:** Read the following scenarios and decide what course of action you should take based on what the Gospel says.

1. Your best friend gets a fake ID made and starts buying alcohol illegally. He then starts selling it to the other kids in your class. Based on what the Gospel says, what is your responsibility in this scenario?

2. Your friend starts cheating on tests and quizzes in class. You find out about it and confront him. He tells you not to worry about it, he has it under control. You push him a little further and tell him he needs to stop. He responds by telling you he will make you a cheat sheet too if you just drop the issue and don’t tell anyone about it. Based on the Gospel, how should you handle this?

3. Your friend works for a pharmacy. He starts stealing painkillers from the pharmacy and dealing them for money. You confront him about it. He refuses to listen. You then approach him about it with two other friends. He still refuses to listen. Based on the Gospel, what should your next step be?

4. Your friend starts using drugs. You have confronted him about it, several of your friends have confronted him about it and his parents have put him in rehab. He runs away from rehab and refuses to stop doing drugs. What do you do?

5. Think about what friendship means. Why do you think it is important to address issues like the ones above with your friends?

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