

## “Disciples, Sin and the Brother” (lesson #11)

**Matt 18:15-17, 21-22; Luke 17:3-4**

**Read also Eph 4:32; Col 3:13**

1. Peter questioned the Lord concerning forgiving a brother. What did he ask & what was the Lord’s reply (**Matt 18:21-22**)?

**Hyperbole** – 70 times 7 (or) as many times as he returns to apologize.

**Repentance** cannot be overlooked in forgiveness (**Lk 17:3-4; 1 Jn 1:9**).

**It is also** important that we are mature enough to distinguish differences of opinion & personality from actual sins.

2. Relate the parable that Jesus taught to reinforce His law on forgiveness (**Matt 18:23-35**).

**Parable** of the merciful master & his unforgiving servant teaches us that forgiveness begins with God, & we must follow His lead to continue receiving it.

*“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, & their sins & their lawless deeds I will remember no more”* (**Heb 8:12**).

*“For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment”* (**Jas 2:13**).

**Another** danger is that by refusing to forgive, a soul may become discouraged & give up.

*“So that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive & comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him”* (**2 Cor 2:7-8**).

3. If your brother sins against you (or sins in general) what should you do (**Matt 18:15-17**)?

**Personal** contact – **Witness** reinforcement – **Congregational** action (**2 Thess 3:15; Matt 5:44**)

4. In (**Matt 18:15-17**) is there a difference between individual & congregational action? Explain.

**Yes!** However, the actions of one member MAY, if proper attitudes do not prevail, effect the whole body (**2 Thess 3:6; 2 Tim 2:23; Titus 3:10**).

5. Discuss the following passages relating to discipleship, sin & a brother.

a. **Gal 6:1-2** – **Restoration** is done through gentle persuasion, always with introspection.

b. **1 Cor 8:13** – **Abstain** from actions that may be an offending influence on another.

c. **James 5:19-20** – **Thank** the Lord for that “someone”. **Are** you that “someone”? **You** may have influence where others may not. **The** sins that are “covered” are the sins that love for a brother will cause you to set aside in order to help restore him back to faithful service to God (cf. **Gen 9:23**).

d. **Matt 18:6** – **The** persons who has caused someone else to stumble or sin is held equally responsible for the sin (**Rom 14:13; 1 Cor 10:32-33; 1 Jn 2:10**).

e. **Matt 18:12-14** – **How** will the Father accomplish this? **He** will use us!