

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PART 8
BIBLE STUDY BY JAMIE MCNAB
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Matthew 18:15-20

"Moreover if your brother sins (Greek: Hamartana = to miss the mark = sin. What it is not is ... the casual routine irritations ... like clicking your biro during services) against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. (probably the local congregation) But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (will have been bound ... will have been loosed)

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. (in context ... how you deal with a sinning brother ... if only two of you agree about the sinning brother ... then that decision is upheld ... Jesus will "back us up") For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Ephesians 4:1-3

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love*, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

*NASB: "Showing tolerance for one another in love"

*J B PHILIPS: "Make allowances for each other ... because you love each other"

Proverbs 19:11

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger,
And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” (The rabbis view was up to three times)

****Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (forever ... never stop forgiving ... if they repent)** Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. (We have a big debt with God that we can't repay. We have earned the death penalty and you and I could not pay it. If we have repented ... God has wiped our debt away ... our slate clean)

“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. (after you had repented) Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was

due to him. (The Master re-instated that debt!! ... Would that possibly imply that God would re-instate our debt?)

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” (Could all of our history be re-instated if you don't forgive your brother ... if they seek forgiveness ... have repented. We give what we receive)

** Luke 17:3-4

Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

Matthew 19:1-10

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce (Greek: ***Apoluo ...Put away) his wife for just any reason?” (The Pharisees are testing Jesus ... they are trying to trip Him up. There were two schools of thought: Shammai: the only legitimate reason was for sexual sin ... typically adultery. Or Hillel: who believed you could put away your wife for any reason ... she displeased you!!)

And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined (Greek:Proskollao ... be glued to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined (Greek: suzeugnumi ... yoked) together, let not man separate.” (Marriage wasn't thought up from some ape species. Marriage came from Heaven. Marriage is a picture of faithfulness ... also a picture of Christ marrying His Church ... His Bride)

They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” (Apoluo)

He said to them, "**Moses**, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And **I say to you**, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality,(Greek: Porneia) and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry." (Compare the next verse:)

Matthew 19:10 THE MESSAGE BIBLE

Jesus' disciples objected, "If those are the terms of marriage, we're stuck. Why get married?"

(Porneia can mean a wide range of sexual sins ... includes immorality, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality ... but READ IN CONTEXT ... in this particular verse ... FORNICATION ... PREMARITAL SEX ... FOUND OUT WHEN YOU FIRST GET MARRIED)

*****Matthew 15:22-23**

And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "**Send her away, (Greek: Apoluo ... put away ... used 69 times in the NT)** for she cries out after us."

*****Matthew 15:32**

Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to **send them away (Greek: Apoluo ... Put away)** hungry, lest they faint on the way."

Matthew 19:11-12

But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their

mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."

1 Corinthians 7:8-16

But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. Now to the married (two believers) I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce (leave) his wife.

But to the rest (a believer and an unbeliever) I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce (leave) her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce (leave) him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Matthew 19:13-15

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such (like little children ... The biggest characteristic is innocence ... No dark secrets dwelling in their minds) is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.