

MATTHEW 18; Auust 7; Forgiveness Taught by Jesus

ANALYSIS:

1. What did Jesus say would be better for a person, than for that person to offend a little one who believes in Him? _____
2. Did Jesus teach us to deal gently or severely with our offending members, that harm others or cause others to sin? _____
3. In this chapter, what is the reason why the Son of man came to this world? _____
4. When a brother has offended you, what is the first thing you should do? _____
5. When Peter asked Jesus if he should forgive his brother seven times, what was he told? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

What do you do whenever you are offended by another person? Do you let your anger grow by selfish thoughts about what happened? Do you slight the other person in revenge? Do you talk to others about your offence? Or do you follow the wisdom of Proverbs 19:11 "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression?" And can you heal the problem with the wisdom of Proverbs 17:9 "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends?"

If we will remember the great debt of sins which our Lord has forgiven us, surely we can pass over any offence someone might do to us, whether it was by accident (and most are), or even if it was by malice (which is very infrequent).

HELP:

1. Having a millstone hung about his neck and be drowned in the sea (v 6).
2. Severely, as shown by the hyperbolic language of cutting off a hand or foot (v 8).
3. To save that which was lost (v 11).
4. If you cannot pass over, cover and forgive the matter (see Proverbs above), the go and tell him his fault privately, and seek to heal the situation (v 15).
5. Forgive seventy times seven or 490 times, meaning there are no limits to forgiveness (v 22).