

Kingdom Parables - A King Settles Accounts

Mat 18:23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

The 1st thing about the church -- our relationship with Him (universal church)

Mat 16:13-19 ESV Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "**But who do you [Gk plural] say that I am?**" 16 Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! **For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.** 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- You are built into the church when you acknowledge who Jesus is...death will not stop his building

The 2nd thing about the church -- our relationship with one another (local church)

Mat 18:15-17 "If your brother **sins against you**, go and tell him his fault, between you and him **alone**. If he **listens** to you, you have **gained** your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that **every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses**. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- This relationship is deep & radical - It invites and mandates confrontation (what, leave the church?)
- Consider him as not a part - but still loved (Woman at well, Syrophenecian Zaccheus, Matthew)

Truths surrounding Matt 18:15-17 provide the right foundation and basis for this process

Our relationship to the Universal Church (Jesus) makes the biblical handling of conflict a reality

(1) We must BECOME Like Children with Humility & And RECEIVE others in Jesus' name

Mat 18:1-35 ESV At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and **become like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever **humbles himself like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "Whoever **receives one such child in my name** receives me, 6 but whoever **causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin**, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

(2) Being quick to acknowledge the things that cause you to sin (makes confrontation easier)

8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

(3) Embrace the heart of the Father toward the lost sheep

12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So **it is not the will of my Father** who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

- It is the will of the Father that none perish (remember that the revelation from the Father is the introduction to the church (Matt 16) but he wants them preserved as well

*****Here he tells us if your brother sins against you etc*****

(4) Remember the presence of Jesus being with us in this process

18 Truly, 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. 19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 **For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.**"

- His presence should encourage His wisdom, His mercy, His gentleness, His kindness, His truth

(5) You must be ready to forgive and show mercy

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me [*tie back to Matt 18:15-17* "If your brother *sins against you*], and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but **seventy-seven times**. 23 "Therefore **the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants**. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, '**Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.**' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

- 10,000 talents = 60 million silver coins
- Equivalent to 200,000 years of work

28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, '**Have patience with me, and I will pay you.**' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

- 100 silver coins
- Equivalent to 3 months of work

32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! **I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.** 33 And should not you have had **mercy on your fellow servant**, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, **if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.**"

Summary: What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you this morning? How would he want you to respond?

1. Are you on the rock - being BUILT into his church?
2. Are you in danger of being on the outside like a Gentile or tax collector?
3. Are you like a pharisee in dealing with those who sin against you?
4. Does pride keep us from acknowledging sin?
5. All these are efforts to keep us "in the Lord's building program".