



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

6 September 2020

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Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)

Dealing With Sin in the Church

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

LET FORGIVENESS FLOW (hymn)

Father here I am again
In need of mercy, hurt from sin
So by the blood and Jesus' love
Let forgiveness flow

To me, from me
So my heart will know
Fully and sweetly
Let forgiveness flow

In my heart and in my mind
In word and deed, I've been so blind
So by the blood and Jesus' love
Let forgiveness flow

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by Danny Daniels

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Exodus 12::1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 14:1-12



PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



Matthew 18:15-20 and Musings:

This reading is one which can sit a bit uncomfortably. After all, we don't enjoy being at odds with other people. Quite often differences are "swept under the carpet", rather than being dealt with. It can feel easier to let the issue go, than to make a fuss. Sometimes choosing to ignore it can "leave a bad taste in our mouths", and the matter never really disappears.

Gossiping, or talking behind the other persons' back, are not behaviours which even came into consideration in what Jesus said. They were strictly "off limits".

To choose the way Jesus suggested, you need to be certain of your facts before beginning the process. Attempting to see the situation the other persons point of view can be helpful. Have they deliberately done the wrong thing? Is it just a misunderstanding?

When we feel that we have been let down by someone we trusted, we may have lots of feelings to deal with, as well as the wrong which has been done. We may need to manage those feelings before we are truly able to proceed with facing the other person. We may need to ask for Jesus' strength to help us to deal with hurt feelings.

This reading gives the correct protocols for resolving disagreements:-

1. Take the matter up with your brother.
2. If that doesn't work, take along a couple of church members along with you, and attempt to discuss the matter amongst the small group. Hopefully the person who has wronged you will listen to the impartial witnesses you bring with you.
3. The next phase of escalation is to attempt to bring the matter to the congregation as a whole..... never an easy process!

If the disagreement cannot be resolved at this level, "treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector".

This is where it gets very tricky. How did Jesus treat tax collectors?

He treated them as friends. He ate with them; he befriended them; he accepted them.

That isn't the way that the rest of the world treated tax collectors or pagans. Others looked down their noses at them, and shunned them.

I guess that Jesus was asking us whether we will treat others as he would treat them, or as others would treat them. Whose lead will we follow?

That brings up further tricky questions. If we accept those who have wronged us, do we have to trust them? Do we allow people to wrong us again, or do we take steps to limit our vulnerability?

There are no clear, black-and-white answers!

Blessings from Meg

Blessings from Meg



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Joyce Dowsett's daughter Claire, who is leader of the ukulele choir who have entertained us sometimes at Hallsville. Claire has problems with her spine.
- Please pray for Margaret Davidson, Ross's sister-in-law. Margaret was hit by a car whilst cycling, and has quite a number of injuries.
- We give thanks that John Murray is recovering well from heart surgery.
- Peter Scorgie's health has been fluctuating, and we pray that it improves.
- We pray for friends in lockdown in aged care facilities.

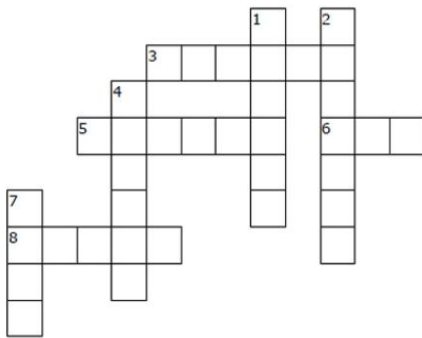
Gathered in His Name

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20 [NIV]

Puzzle is based on Matthew 18:15-20



Come Together



ACROSS

3. A male parent; a term used to address God
5. A female who has the same parents as another person
6. The number that follows one (1)
8. To have the same opinion as another person

DOWN

1. An organization that follows the teaching of Jesus
2. A male who has the same parents as another person
4. To give attention to a person who is speaking
7. What a person is known by and called

A poor man asked Buddha " Why am I so poor ?"
 Buddha reply : "You are not giving enough"
 Poor Man : "But I have nothing to give"
 Buddha : "You have at least 5 things to give"
 "Your Face: You can smile. Be joyful, cheerful and happy...
 Your Mouth: You can speak words of kindness, encourage people, and give comfort...
 Your Heart : You can open your heart to others, be sincere, truthful and kind...
 Your Eyes : You can look to others with kindness and compassion...
 You Body: You can use your own labor to help others."
 "See.... You are not poor at all. Poverty lives in our heart"



"By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept as we remembered Zion." Psalm 137:1

The people of Israel, exiled in Babylon, sat on the banks of the river and wept for their homeland. We, too, are almost like people in exile at the moment... exile in our own land. Much of what was familiar has been turned into strange rituals of social distancing and isolation. Many of our familiar ways of living—gathering for meals or for worship, baptisms, Holy Communion, weddings, funerals—have been put on hold. We are stuck in a place of uncertainty.

I imagine that the exiled people of Israel kept hold of their sanity by telling stories, singing songs and remembering who they were - even though they were full of doubts, fear, and even despair. They remembered the stories of their faith. They realised that the presence of the Holy One was with them both in Israel and in exile.

I wonder, *How can we sing the Lord's song in the midst of this time which almost feels like we are in a "foreign land".* ~Meg

GOD GIVES US A FUTURE (hymn)

- 1 God gives us a future,
Daring us to go,
Into dreams and dangers
On a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow
In the Spirit's power,
We will let God change us,
For new life starts now.
- 2 .We must leave behind us
Sins of yesterday,
For God's new beginning
Is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit
Must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight,
And the strength we lack.
- 3 Holy Spirit teach us
How to read the signs,
How to meet the challenge
Of our troubled times.
Love us into action,
Stir us into prayer,
Till we choose God's life,
And find our future there.

Sometimes it feels as if the situation we find ourselves in is the obstacle, but often the true obstacle is the one we place in front of ourselves. It is always our reaction that dictates how preceding events unfold.