

Gospel According to Matthew 18:15 – 35

New American Standard Version

1 ¹⁵“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he
2 listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen
3 to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO
4 OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. ¹⁷If he
5 refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen
6 even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
7 ¹⁸Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been
8 bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been
9 loosed in heaven. ¹⁹“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on
10 earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by
11 My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three have gathered
12 together in My name, I am there in their midst.” ²¹Then Peter came
13 and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me
14 and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²²Jesus *said to him, “I do not
15 say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³“For
16 this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
17 wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he had begun to
18 settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to
19 him. ²⁵But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord
20 commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all
21 that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell *to the*
22 *ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience
23 with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷And the lord of that slave
24 felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that
25 slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a
26 hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying,
27 ‘Pay back what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and
28 *began* to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will
29 repay you.’³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison
30 until he should pay back what was owed.³¹ So when his fellow slaves
31 saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and
32 reported to their lord all that had happened. ³²Then summoning him,
33 his lord *said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt
34 because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not also have had mercy
35 on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’
36 ³⁴And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers
37 until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵My heavenly Father
38 will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his
39 brother from your heart.”

*Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

Circle everything about discipline or judging.

Underline everything about forgiveness or restoration..

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What conclusions do you draw from this passage about judging others?

What conclusions do you draw from this passage about discipline among believers?

What conclusions do you draw from this passage about forgiveness and restoration?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

Is your first reaction to another person’s sin usually judging and discipline, or is it more often forgiveness and restoration?

Which of these areas do you most need to grow in? What changes might result in your life as a result?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain hidden
that is really in them.
J.A. Benael (1687-1752)**