

Revival and Relationships

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“The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” - 2 Samuel 12:1-7

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, “**I have sinned against the LORD.**” - 2 Samuel 12:13

- David knew that a sin against another person was a sin against God, and affected his relationship with both.

Jesus says when revival comes to me, I will “be different”!

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them. He said:

³ *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”* - Matthew 5:1-11

My wrong relationships with others hinder my relationship with God.

“And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” - Matthew 6:12

“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” - Matthew 6:14,15

When I Have Offended Someone

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

- Matthew 5:23,24

- I must go to them.

When Someone Has Offended Me

1. I must not be easily offended.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” - Ephesians 4:2

2. I must go to the one who offended me — privately.

“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.” - Matthew 18:15

3. If they refuse to listen, take some others and try again.

“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.” - Matthew 18:16

4. If they still refuse to listen, take it to the church leaders.

“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.” - Matthew 18:17

5. Be forgiving toward a repentant brother or sister.

“If they listen to you, you have won them over.” - Matthew 18:15
“...you should forgive him and encourage him. Otherwise such a person might be swallowed up by excessive sorrow.” - 2 Corinthians 2:7,8

Five Questions to Ask Myself

1. Do I treat others differently than how they're treated by the world?
2. Is there someone I've wronged whom I need to ask for forgiveness?
3. Have I been wronged by someone and my bitterness is affecting my relationships?
4. Have I followed God's directions in addressing this situation?
5. Have I forgiven freely, knowing that my willingness to forgive others determines God's willingness to forgive me?

“But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” - Matthew 6:15

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