

LESSON 18

06.05.18

Theme: GENUINE REPENTANCE REQUIRED

Memory Verse: *Matthew 5:23-24* “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”

Texts: Mathew 18:7-17; Mark 11:25-26

Jesus taught that there should be no bad blood among believers. Brethren are to dwell in love. “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the Altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the Altar, and go thy way, first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Matthew 5:23,24). Christ stressed the need for the believer to live in peace, love and unity with his neighbor and fellow believers.

From Christ’s teaching, it is double rebellion for a believer to give an offering in the church, pay tithes, teach, lead choruses, preach, lead prayer in the church or any Christian gathering when there is an unsettled matter between him and a fellow believer. There cannot be Evangelism or Visitation or giving offering when there is unforgiving spirit lodging in the heart. Husband and wife who are merely tolerating each other must first be reconciled before they go to do any service in the house of God. Leaders who have responsibility over the flock must diligently ensure that they live in peace with all the flock.

Misunderstanding must be settled thoroughly, else all labour in the kingdom of God will be in vain. Believers are to forgive one another freely, without grudge. When offences come we are to follow the laid-down pattern in the Bible to settle them (Matthew 18:7, 15-17). If we do not forgive, our prayers will not be answered (Mark 11:25,26). We are not to humiliate the offender. We must remember that God, for Christ’s sake, forgave us our sins without humiliating. But on the other hand, those seeking reconciliation and forgiveness should be willing, as Jacob was, to go the extra mile to seek for peace. Jacob was even willing to give up a good portion of his wealth to plead with Esau. Many believers who have defrauded in the past when making restitutions act as if it is their right to keep the benefits of the fraud to themselves. The believer who professes to seek for reconciliation and peace should be ready to make sacrifices.

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Isaiah 20	Isaiah 21
MONDAY	Isaiah 22	Isaiah 23
TUESDAY	Isaiah 24	Isaiah 25
WEDNESDAY	Isaiah 26	Isaiah 27
THURSDAY	Isaiah 28	Isaiah 29
FRIDAY	Isaiah 30	Isaiah 31
SATURDAY	Isaiah 32	Isaiah 33