

One with Another! (Forgiveness)

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, We simply come! We come to spend time with You in prayer and study! Moreover, we recognize that we come with baggage. Some of us are hurting, depressed, confused and even angry. You said to come to You, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28)!

You said, "I can make your burdens light" (vs. 30). In this Season, we give it all to You, Heavenly Father, You who are the author and finisher of our faith. We confess that we often we are unaware there is unforgiveness in our hearts. Search us NOW! Reckon with us NOW! Show us how we act; our bad attitudes and even envy and jealousy that almost swallows us up!

We repent NOW! We want a fresh and clean slate. As we begin this study, we feel Your refreshing! PUSH us into a deeper study of YOUR WORD! Mold us! Our desire is that Your Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven! Therefore, we now see with supernatural eyes our execution of love in ways we could not fathom. We reinstate, O God, all we do is for Your Glory, not our Glory. Thank You for cleansing us, refreshing us and renewing us. No more baggage or worries! In this study we already feel Your lifting those awful hurts and wounds off our backs! With joy, we close this prayer in Your Redeeming Name JESUS! JESUS! JESUS! We give YOU thanks and praise for the study of YOUR WORD!

Scripture

Matthew 5:23-24

Context

As we delve into this Scripture, we must first take an in depth look at the word reconcile. This verb is defined in the Cambridge On-Line Dictionary: "to adjust the way you think about a fact or situation that is opposed to another fact or situation so that you can accept both" (i.e. "[i]f two people are reconciled, they become friendly again after having argued so seriously that they kept apart; [a]fter two years of not speaking to one another, the two brothers were finally reconciled; [t]o reconcile yourself to a situation is to accept it even if it is unpleasant or painful, because it cannot be changed: [h]e has reconciled himself to the loss of the election and is moving on").

Exegesis

As we read this text in verse 24 it says, “leave your gift there before the altar and go your way.” According to *The Interpreter’s Bible Volume VII* (1957):

It is idle for a man to try to maintain right relations with God through worship if he is not at peace with his neighbor”. As the Misnah says, “The day of Atonement atones for offenses of man against God., but it does not atone for offenses against man’s neighbor, til he reconciles with his neighbor” (Yoma 8:9). It is better to leave the church at the most sacred moment of worship than to delay a reconciliation.

When we go to our sister or brother we become friendly again. Why? Because It pleases God and it removes the hook that person has hooked us with. It is so important to swallow pride and move in God’s love. God has forgiven us numerous times.

Furthermore, let us consider 1 Corinthian 11:27-31: “Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep[are dead]. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.”

Conversation

We must do with “One Another” as God has ordained us to do. Once we do so, we then can flow in God’s power! When, we, as God’s servant children go to Him with clean hands and a pure heart, we find there’s no more feeling unworthy, harboring hatred or guilty or fear. We realize His love, grace and mercy has made us one with another! Therefore, we as God’s servants must go – no, must run to that brother and sister with a heart of forgiveness and reconciliation. We must let go of pride; let go of anger; let go of revenge; let go of hate; fear, guilt and feeling inferior to others! Can we do this in times like these? God is waiting for us to come.

Questions

Who is it we need to go to in order to reconcile? Is it a family member, a pastor, a Bishop, a trustee, a WMS sister or brother, a best friend, a lay person or even a misguided teenager who has no knowledge of agape love or proper conduct for lack of training (Proverbs 22:6)? Who is it? During these next two weeks, let us challenge ourselves to begin to look within asking God to show us who we need to go to and reconcile.