

Jesus Spoke of the Church

- Twice before His death Jesus spoke about the church. The first time He revealed that it was His divinity as the Son of God that would be the unmovable foundation.
- *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Mt. 16:15-19*

... I Will Build MY Church

Upon this ROCK

You are the Christ the Son of the Living God

The rock is not Peter ... The rock the church of Christ is built upon is that her builder and founder is the eternal unchanging Son of God.

Two Chapters Later

- *15 Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*
- *16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'*
- *17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.*
- *But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Mt. 18:15-17*
- Although Jesus did not reveal why this was the most important thing He had to say about the church he promised to build, we need to consider it. Obviously this was very important to Him and the Holy Spirit!

The Foundation of This Command

- *What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?*
- *And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.*
- *Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. Matt 18:12-14*
- How does a sheep stray in the church?
- It can only stray through sin and weakness.
- How do we go out and seek the one who is straying in sin?
- Jesus gave the answer in the next passage:

Seeking the Sheep Who are Straying

- *15 Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*
- The sin is the straying ... only sin can separate anyone.
- Showing his fault and seeking repentance is how we seek
- If he repents and confesses, he has been sought and won
- *16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'*
- This straying sheep will not return ...
- He is still lost and still needs to be won and returned.
- Jesus Himself tells us what one seeking the sheep must do
- It is not the way most people think, but it is the way Jesus commanded. If they won't repent (return) pressure must be put upon them. If he now repents and returns all is well

Seeking the Sheep who are Straying

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- *But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Mt. 18:15-17*
- These are strong words.
- Words our Savior wanted us to hear.
- Sin is not something to be tolerated or overlooked.
- Sin brings death and that straying sheep has returned to death and will remain in it until He repents.
- The matter that began in private must become public.
- The church is to be told (in a public assembly– 1Cor. 5)
- If that public shaming will not produce repentance...
- The final step: since he will stay straying, the entire church must know all steps taken, he refused to return.
- All that is left is to inform the church that he has returned to the world from which he came

The Steps Jesus Gave Modified to Fit the Circumstances

- Go and Show ... Seek Repentance

Christians who openly break God's law – Publicly or privately: Reprove; Rebuke Admonish Warn,

- Brother sins Mt 18:15 Go talk
- Disorderly I Th 5:14 Admonish
- Hypocrites Gal 2:11-13 Resist/admonish
- Overtaken in fault Gal 6:1 Restore/gentleness
- Hard feelings Phil 4:2-3 Exhort and help

Steps Jesus Gave

- If he won't Hear... Count Him:
- Will not hear Mt 18:15-18
 - Count as publican and Gentile
- Practicing immorality I Cor 5:9-11, 13
 - Keep no company
- Causing divisions Rom 16:17
 - Mark and turn away
- Factious man Titus 3:10
 - Refuse
- Blasphemer I Tim 1:20
 - Deliver to Satan
- Disorderly brother II Th. 3:6,14
 - Withdraw - have no company

Successful Church Discipline

• *And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you. 5 But if anyone has caused grief, he has not grieved me, but all of you to some extent — not to be too severe. 6 This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, 7 so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. 8 Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. 9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. 2 Cor 2:3-9*

Successful Church Discipline

- *For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2 Cor 7:8-12*

Successful Church Discipline

- *11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 12 Therefore, although I wrote to you, I did not do it for the sake of him who had done the wrong, nor for the sake of him who suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear to you. 2 Cor 7:8-12*

Jesus is Still the Rock

- Any local church built on Him obeys all His commands.
- Never forget Paul's words:
- *9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. 2 Cor 2:3-10*