

Sermon: A Reconciling Church.
Series: Church on Mission.

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-35.
Date: August 31, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Do you struggle with confrontation? Seeking forgiveness? Offering forgiveness?
- b) Who do you most relate to in the parable that Jesus told? The king? The first servant? The second servant? Explain your answer.
- c) Read Matt. 18:1-14. How is sin described/defined in these passages? How does this help us to understand the kinds of sin we are confronting in verse 15?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Consider Matt. 18:15-20 and Leviticus 19:17-18. Why do you think God is so concerned with our being able to reconcile with one another and settle our differences?
- b) In the parable (18:23-35), the King/Master represents God. What do we learn about the character of God from this parable?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) How does Matt. 18:27 preview the gospel of Jesus Christ and his cross?
- b) How does trusting God's forgiveness free our hearts to forgive others?
- c) The cross offers free forgiveness for all sins, but this is not reconciliation with God? What do we need to do in order to be reconciled to God?

APPLICATION

- a) Is there anyone in the Family of God that you need to reconcile with? Have you ever tried to follow the steps of Matthew 18:15-20? If so, what was the result?
- b) If your heart struggles to forgive consider these three thoughts from the sermon: a) No sin against you is unforgivable (God is able to forgive every sin); b) You have everything you need in Christ (no one can take anything eternal from you); c) You can trust God for justice (God's wrath will bring justice to all victims).

Which of these thoughts helps you the most in terms of finding it in your heart to forgive?

PRAYER

- Praise God for his mercy and justice.
- Confess ways that you have failed to forgive others and seek reconciliation.
- Thank Jesus for his payment of our sin debt.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to produce forgiveness in your heart and the courage to confront sin in the Body of Christ.