
05 Mending Broken Relationships

Matthew 5:23-25; 7: 1-5; 18:15-17

Introduction:

A major obstacle to prayer and spiritual growth is broken relationships. In today's story Jesus teaches how to mend broken relationships. In everyday life it is inevitable that we will all clash with others. There will be disagreements in our family, in our church, in our work, in our community. Sometimes people hurt us and sometimes we hurt others. This is a fact. According to the teachings of Jesus the important thing is what do we do after we clash with others? As children of God, we are responsible for fixing the broken relationships in life. Today's story shows us how.

How to Solve Conflicts

Story:

Fixing Broken Relationships

Jesus went up on a hill where he sat and taught the people. Jesus taught various subjects, among them he taught them how to mend broken relationships.

Jesus said, "If you are praying to God and there you remember that your brother has something against you, stop praying, go to where your brother is and mend your broken relationship. When you are already reconciled with him, go back and continue praying to God."

Also, Jesus told them: "If your brother sins against you, you have a responsibility to fix the broken relationship. First, you have to humble yourself, examine yourself and take the log out of your own eye. Then, you have to go to your brother to undermine him, confessing your faults and asking his forgiveness. Then tell him what he has done against you. If he repents, you have helped him out of his sin. But if he does not repent, you must take one with you or two other brothers who can serve as witnesses that you are trying to mend the broken relationship.

If he refuses to listen to what you say, you should take the case to the church leaders seeking their help in mending the

Instructions:

- Tell the story*
- Retell the story.*
- Tell the story with the help of others.*
- Have someone tell the story as accurately as possible.*
- Ask the seven questions.*

Questions:

- 1) What do you like about this story?
- 2) What do you dislike or find confusing in this story
- 3) What did you learn about God and His character?
- 4) What did you learn about human beings and their character?
- 5) What did God show you in this story and what should you obey?
- 6) How will you remember this story? (Answer: Tell others.)
- 7) Who has God told to tell this story, and when will you obey?

broken relationship. If he does not listen to the leaders, the church should treat him as someone who is not a believer.”

Additional Questions:

- What are Jesus' instructions for those who come praying and remember that their brother has something against them?
- We should think and ask ourselves if we have a broken relationship with another person. If so, why not make a commitment to go and look for a solution? Restoring a broken relationship takes courage and humility, but it yields wonderful results. The gospel reaches people through relationships. If relationships are broken, it damages our witness and the witness of the church in the community.
- What are Jesus' instructions if you come praying and remember that your brother has something against you?
- What should you do if a brother sins against you? What is the first step?
- In examining your own heart, what would be the next step?
- What does "taking the log out of its own eye" mean?
- With what kind of attitude should we approach our brother to reconcile?
- According to Jesus' teaching, what is the next step in confessing your own fault to your brother?
- What do you do if your brother does not want to acknowledge his own sin?
- What to do if your brother does not want to listen to you in the presence of a witness?
- What are the positive results and personal benefits if we follow Jesus' instructions in cases of broken relationships?

Memory verse:

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Hebrews 12:14

"Seek peace with all and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."