

**Relational Leftovers**  
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Matthew 8:15-20  
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**Main Idea:** When there is a gap between what we expect and what we experience, as Christians we must believe the best and not assume the worst of other people.

**A. What Creates Relational Leftovers?**

1. **Human Nature - Sin. (v. 15)**  
"If your brother sins against you."
2. **You talk about the other person instead of talking to the person. (v. 15)**  
"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you."
3. **You don't tell the truth about the real issue. (v. 15)**  
"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault...."
4. **You expect a certain response instead of allowing them to respond. (v. 15,16)**  
"....go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If, he refuses to listen to them...."  
  
I Corinthians 13:5-7 "Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."
5. **You believe the wrong people. (v 16,17)**  
"....so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

**B. How do I Handle Relational Leftovers?**

1. **When there is a gap between what I expected and what I experienced, I will believe the best.**  
"All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord."  
Proverbs 16:2 NIV

2. **When other people assume the worst about you, I will come to your defense.**
3. **If what I experience begins to erode my trust, I will come directly to you about it.**  
"Go and show him his fault, just between the two of you." Matt 18:15  
"A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends."  
Proverbs 16:28
4. **When I'm convinced I will not be able to deliver on a promise, I will inform you ahead of time.**
5. **When you confront me about the gaps I've created, I will tell you the truth.**  
"These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts." Zechariah 8:16  
"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." Ephesians 4:15

**C. Do I need to resolve some Relational Leftovers? (Application)**

1. **Take a moment and list some people who you need to change your perspective of - you have assumed the worst about them.**
2. **Do you have an issue or do they? If you sit on it, it's your issue.**
3. **Is there someone that you need to defend and haven't?**
4. **Have you created a gap of trust in your family or organization by not being trustworthy?**
5. **Who needs to hear the truth from you in love?**