

Matthew 18:15-35

Confronting Sin

When a sinner is sinned against ...

I. Counterintuitive Concern

A. Sinful Offenses

B. Loving Confrontation

II. Merciful Method

A. Restoration

B. In Process

III. Full Forgiveness

A. A Question

B. A Parable

C. A Warning

... the Lord is there.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did the king do for the servant who owed him money?
2. What did that servant do to another servant who owed him money?
3. How did the king feel about the unforgiving servant?
4. How does God forgiving us our sins help us to forgive others?

Full Throttle

Have you ever been so hurt or offended by someone that, as the saying goes, you "just wanted to choke them!" If not, count it a blessing. If so, I'm afraid you are not in good company. While you may not have ever gotten literally as far as the bad guy in Jesus' parable your sentiments are reflected in his actions. The unmerciful servant should have remembered the magnanimous forgiveness of the king regarding his enormous debt to him, but he didn't. Instead, he tracked his neighbor down and demanded the mere pittance that he owed him, displaying his outrage by choking the poor guy! Offenses will come, we will be sinned against, and there may be times when we just want to throttle the guy (or gal). But we have got to get a grip on ourselves, reflect upon the greatness of God's forgiveness of us, and then, and only then approach the party who has sinned against us according to the method Jesus prescribes in the first half of our passage.