

Matthew 18:15-16

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.'

Notice in today's devotional verse that Jesus tells us what to do when someone has done us wrong? Jesus said to ***go and tell him his fault between you and him alone***. But do we have it backwards? Do we do verse 16 before we do verse 15?

It seems if someone does us wrong that we are quick to go tell others what he or she did to us, or even go to the pastor and tell him what happened. Yet how much time and frustration would we not have to go through if we just went to that person like Jesus said to do?

† ***Go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.***

This also happens a lot in the workplace, someone says something to you that you don't like or against how you are doing your job, or just something offensive. A lot of times, the first thing people do is go tell their coworkers what happened, or run to the boss and tell on someone else without even going to that person. The results are that your coworkers don't like that person or will treat him or her bad, or your boss has to stop and help you two make amends.

A lot of times it's a misunderstanding or someone didn't realize that they offended you and it all could have been fixed with you going to that person and you telling them how you feel about what happened.

"Ok, I have tried that Steve and they don't care and things are just as bad, if not worse."

Jesus knew this would happen, so He gave us additional instructions in verse 16 if it does happen this way. But only after you have spoken to that person one on one like it says in verse 15.

† ***Matthew 18:16 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.'***

Now, when you do this, I believe it shouldn't be someone that you told about it already. Why? Because Jesus said that you should go to that person one on one and not tell others about it. We also tend to find someone who will be on our side so that we can prove the other person wrong.

Notice Jesus said that ***'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'*** This does not mean that the other(s) you take with you to confront that person has witnessed what was said or happened, it means that they will hear both sides of the story and will be a witness to what you both have said or both points of view. Then based upon they are told, they will hopefully give good and right counsel or advice.

So take what the Lord has told us to do when we are confronted with things in regards to others, and that is to go to him or her one on one. But can I also suggest this as well, that you really stop

and pray before you do, talking to the Lord about it first, maybe using that as a cooling off period. You never know, the Lord may just reveal your own heart to you about the matter.

Luke 16:15 *And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."*