

PART 3: Go

DATE: 01-22-2023

START

When we are wronged by someone, whether it's a coworker, neighbor, boss, spouse, child, parent, friend, or whoever, our response is to usually vent to everyone else but that person. We can be passive aggressive, petty, and gossip about what has been done to us. Jesus flips this upside down and teaches us to go to the person directly.

- How do you usually respond to people that have wronged you?
- What would it look like to approach the person who has wronged you directly?
- What prevents you from approaching the person that wronged you directly?

READ

[Matthew 18:15](#) (NIV)

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

THINK

As Jesus comes to usher in His kingdom, He establishes a new way to approach conflict. He challenges us to approach the person that has wronged us one-on-one. If that doesn't work, bring 1-2 others with you to hold both parties accountable. If they still refuse to listen, bring it before the church (a larger group of people with the same heart). The point is to go above and beyond to preserve the relationship and seek reconciliation.

- How can Jesus' method help us approach conflict?
- Why should our goal be to restore relationships opposed to winning an argument?

People have hurt us, but on the flip side we have also hurt people. We can sense a gap in a relationship when we have hurt someone. We must be intentional about closing the gap.

- When have you had to close the gap in a relationship?
- How does owning what you have done wrong help restore a relationship?

PRAY

"God, help me to directly approach people when they have wronged me. Help me approach them with honesty and love. Help me to also see where I have wronged others, and allow me to close the gap with humility so that the relationship might be restored."

ACT

This week, begin to close the gap in your relationships. Whether it's someone that has wronged you, or you have wronged someone. Take the step to close the gap as Jesus challenges us to do.

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