SIN AND FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18:15–35

Key Verses: 18:19,20

1. Read verse 15. What does it mean that a brother or sister “sins”? What does it mean to “point out their fault”? Why is this hard to do? Why should it be done privately first? What does it mean that you “have won them over”? (Jas5:20)
2. Read verse 16. Why would such a person “not listen”? Why should just one or two others now join in? Read verse 17. Why would such a person still “refuse to listen”? What does it mean to “tell it to the church”? To refuse to listen “even to the church”? To “treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector”?
3. Read verse 18. What does this mean? Read verses 19,20. What is Jesus teaching us here about true Christian fellowship? How can we have such fellowship among us?
4. Read verse 21. What did Peter ask Jesus? Why do you think he had such a question? What did he mean by offering to forgive up to seven times? Read verse 22. What did Jesus mean, and why was he teaching this?
5. In Jesus’ parable of the kingdom, how much did the first servant owe? (23,24) What happened when he couldn’t repay it? (25) How did the servant respond? (26) What did his master do, and why? (27) How does this illustrate God’s forgiveness?
6. What did this servant turn around and do? (28) What did his fellow servant say? (29) How did the first servant respond? (30) What did the other servants do? (31) How did the master rebuke him? (32,33) What did he do to him? (34) Read verse 35. What did Jesus warn us? What does it mean to forgive “from your heart”? How can we?