03-10-13

Just Between the Two of Us

Matthew 18:15-18

I. To Restore Means to Confront

A. The goal is “restoration” (Mt. 18:7-14).

B. Our restoration efforts must be gentle (Gal. 6:1).

C. Examples of indirect approaches:

1. Christ and the Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:1-8)

2. Christ and His use of parables (Lk. 15)

3. Paul and the Athenians’ idolatry (Acts 17:22-31)

4. Esther and her approach to the king (Es. 5-7).

II. Restoration Will be Best Face to Face

A. A mediator may be needed as the first step

1. Jacob was sent ahead of Esau (Gen. 32-33).

2. Joseph’s brothers sent someone ahead to talk to Joseph (Gen. 50:15-16).

3. Abigail intervened between David and Nabal (1 Sam. 25:18-25).

4. Joab had a woman seek intervention between David and Absalom (2 Sam. 14:1-23).

5. Barnabas sought to intervene between Paul and Mark (Acts 9:26-27).

B**.** The approach must be done with respect (Phil. 2:3-4).

C. We must avoid diversions that can hinder restoration.