# *Third Street Church*

# *Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 - 6pm*

To join the Study: Dial **1-(646)941-1150** Then enter meeting ID# **7197803**

**Introductions/ Welcome- Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Elder Lois Camp**

# Opening Music: Elder Allen Lowery

**The Word:**

# Matthew 18:15-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

### Reproving Another Who Sins

**15**“If another member of the church[a] sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17**If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18**Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19**Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20**For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

***Reflection:***

Today’s scripture is found in the middle of a larger part of Matthew’s description of appropriate behavior for disciples of the day.

He included instruction on personal morals, caring for each other, and forgiveness. Chapter 18 begins with Jesus teaching on the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. v. 3. Then he goes on to help us beware of causing others to stumble. “It would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and be downed in the depths of the sea. ..” v.6.(no one wants that!!) . Next is the parable of the wandering sheep. happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. “v.13…your Father in heaven is not willing that any one of us as the sheep should perish”. v. 14.

Then we come to our reading for today 18:15-20 *Dealing with Sin in the Church*. The aim is to bring the wayward brother or sister back into the community, although they may refuse to be found. Then the church must give up the search and declare him lost. Matthew message of forgiveness and reconciliation is offered in these passages. He encourages us to explore reconciliation as spiritual practice in our lives today.

***Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion***

Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as Christians in these times. You can share if you want or listen. We welcome you all here to study God’s Word!!

1. What are the **three steps** Matthew describes as necessary for harmony within the church? Is Jesus present in this passage? If so, discuss how ?
2. Do you feel this Matthew’s way of dealing with Sin in the Church is followed in the church today? Why or why not?
3. If after telling the dispute to the church, and they refuse to listen, treat them as you would a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. V.17, How were these people looked upon in the early church?
4. v.18 What does this verse mean to you?
5. v.19 How does this verse relate to v. 16?
6. v.20 Why were two or three witnesses a legal requirement (Deu. 19:15)
7. Other thoughts about tonight’s study?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**   **Believe: Matthew 18: 19.** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

What have you witnessed by God doing in your life or lives of others? Share a testimony with someone this week.

**What Inspires you these days?**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. Hold on to inspiration in the midst of troubling times. A song, hymn, scripture or special reading? How has it inspire you? Share with the group if you would like.

﻿**Faith in Action:**. The physical church doors are closed but we are the distance church wherever we are. Give, share, pray, reach out.

***This month SEPTEMBER, please give to Peace and Global Witness Offering:***

 ***Mission Giving – Third Street Church is giving to the denominational offering. Mail to the church, mark your envelope PCUSA Missions OR Crisis Assistance Ministry CAM-Gaston County. Please give September 6-October 4***

**We are the Church*:*** Reach out , text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the Body of Christ.

**Evening Prayer**

**PCUSA –Has reached out to congregations to consider the *Discipleship Weeks of Prayer and Contemplation:***

**Sept. 6-12- Contemplate Peace Within**

**Sept. 13-19- Peace in Relationships**

**Sept. 20-26- Peace in Community**

**Sept.27-Oct.4- Peace in the World**

 **Also we, lift up people who are in crisis, those that are grieving loss, that are isolated and are suffering. We also celebrate joys and times of gladness and give God thanks for these events as well. God hears our prayers!! Please lift up names and situations for prayer today….**

**Closing Music**

**Closing Words and Blessing**

L: Thank you God for a time to study your word!

**P: We Bless your Holy Name!!**

**ALL: Amen**!

Have a restful evening and know that the world will be different tomorrow than it is today. Yet ,God is in the midst!!

Thank you for joining our Bible Study This week!!

Pastor Reid