

First Be Reconciled To Thy Brother

I. Introduction:

A. In this lesson we are going to be talking about an altar. Altars were used to offer up sacrifices to God (**Genesis 8:20, Deuteronomy 12:27, and Isaiah 56:7**).

1. An altar was greater than the gifts offered thereupon (**Matthew 23:18-19**).

2. Altars were used to offer to false gods as well (**Jeremiah 11:13**).

B. Jesus is the end of the offering of gifts upon physical altars as He offered Himself once for all (**Hebrews 7:27, Hebrews 9:11-12, Hebrews 9:26-28, and Hebrews 10:1-14**).

1. The gifts we offer up now are not as those of old (**Hebrews 13:9-18**) and the physical location, altar, etc. is not present (**John 4:20-24 and Philippians 3:3**).

2. However, we can use the old to learn lessons as we will from what Jesus taught in regard to brotherly relations and the altar (**Romans 15:4**).

II. Body: **Matthew 5:23-24**

A. The principle of resolving personal conflict among saints (**Matthew 18:15-20**).

1. The place for mercy and forgiveness (**Matthew 18:21-35 and Colossians 3:12-13**).

2. The necessity of repentance (**Luke 17:3-4**).

B. When unity is affected, God's will is not being accomplished (**Psalms 133:1 and Ephesians 4:1-3**).

1. There are many working parts to being unified (**Romans 14:1-3, Romans 15:1-3, I Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:2, Philippians 3:16, I John 1:7, II John 1:9-11, etc.**).

2. When there is conflict, it needs resolved (**Philippians 4:2**).

3. That resolution should not come from the world (**I Corinthians 6:1-8**).

4. God is our Father (**I Corinthians 1:3**) and we are His children (**I John 3:1-2**). Our relationship should resemble our Father's relationship with Jesus (**John 17:20-23**).

C. There must be peace among the saints (**I Thessalonians 5:12-13**).

1. God is the source of our peace (**I Corinthians 14:33**).

2. Contentiousness doesn't belong in the church (**I Corinthians 11:16**).

III. Conclusion: Whether it is a fault towards a fellow saint or something else, we cannot come before God if we are unclean (**I Timothy 2:8 and Hebrews 10:19-23**).