
Seeking the Stubborn

Matthew 18:15–20 · Sunday, September 6, 2026 · Rev. William Mitchell

THE PASSAGE

Matthew 18:15–20. When someone sins against you, Jesus says, go to them alone first. If they won't listen, bring one or two others; then the church. He ends with a promise: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

THREE TAKEAWAYS

1. When a relationship is broken, don't just walk away. Seek to make it right — spare no effort to set things right again.
2. Jesus is not giving us a formula for how to get rid of difficult people. When the shepherd finds the lost sheep, he doesn't beat it with a stick. He carries it back.
3. Go to them. Don't talk about them. Most problems would be solved if we just went to each other and talked — and sometimes the stubborn person is me.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR THE TABLE

1. Is there someone you have been talking about instead of talking to?
2. Where have I decided I'm right and somebody else is wrong?
3. Who have we decided is hopeless? What would it look like not to give up on them too soon?