


# Making a Difference: Kingdom Living that Cares

**Matthew 18:15–20**





*All this is from God,  
who through Christ,  
reconciled us to Himself,  
and gave us the ministry of...*

# RECONCILIATION

*2 Corinthians 5:18*



WISDOM  
FOR  
Life

# INTRODUCTION



- ▶ The story of Jason Brown who professional football with the St. Louis Rams
- ▶ His quote: “*This is ground zero as far as making a difference.*”
- ▶ This is rooted in the very nature of God
- ▶ This gets to the core of the nature of the church.
- ▶ Challenges our culture

# COVENANT-MAKING

- ▶ Commitments to each other have to be made.
- ▶ In Jason's case, 50 pickup trucks from food pantries & churches, food banks
- ▶ What we agree upon is taken seriously by God.
- ▶ Our fundamental relationship with each other is covenant.



# PROPER PROCESS IN WORKING THINGS OUT

- ▶ We often don't know how
- ▶ The Bible is our YouTube video from God on how to do this!
- ▶ Illustration of my own first use of YouTube...ceramic saw to cut for light switch
- ▶ Go to person first
- ▶ Then follow up if they are resistant
- ▶ Deuteronomy 19:15



# COVENANT-MAKING

- ▶ Covenant quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer... “It is not your love that sustains the marriage , but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love.”
- ▶ Covenant relationships in the church the same way.
- ▶ Talked about image of the church as “family.”



# PRAYER

- ▶ **Matthew 18:19**—“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”
- ▶ **Lord’s Prayer**—Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.





# PRAYER

- ▶ Former is predicated on the latter!
- ▶ Kingdom living that makes a difference and cares is bathed in prayer.
- ▶ In Matthew's presentation of Jesus' ministry, prayer is vital



# CONCLUSION

- ▶ *Jesus provides us guidelines in kingdom living so that relationships can become a priority as we seek to enhance them and give God the glory.*
- ▶ Those guidelines...



# RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE



- ▶ **Matthew 18:20--For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”**
- ▶ **Assembled to accomplish God’s will in relationships**
- ▶ **Too often it has been quoted out of context**
- ▶ **Emphasis not on us**
- ▶ **Significant theme in Matthew’s gospel: God with us.**

# CONCLUSION

- ▶ **THE PROPER PROCESS IN WORKING THINGS OUT**
- ▶ **COVENANT-MAKING**
- ▶ **PRAYER**
- ▶ **RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE**





- ▶ Remember...like Jason, we too can make a difference!

