

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

Against You

Are you serious? **What do you mean by asking me if I am serious? Am I serious about what?** I know that I must be reconciled with the people in my life. I know that I can't hold anger, bitterness, resentment or anything like that against them. **That's right.** You want me to forgive others just as I have been forgiven. **That is also correct.** Holding on to anger, bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness will only serve to harm me. I can't let anything like this come between you and I. **No you cannot.** I want to be able to freely worship you with nothing coming between us. **That is very good. You still haven't answered my question. Am I serious about what?** I'm coming to that. Your word seems to say that I have to go and be reconciled with anyone who has anything against me. What if I don't have anything against them? What if they have something against me and it's one hundred percent their fault. **Does that seem likely to you?** Maybe not. **What are the chances that someone has something against you and you don't know about it?** There is almost no chance of that. I would have to be pretty dense not to know that someone was holding something against me. **What are the chances that you are one hundred percent free of any fault when someone is holding something against you?** There is probably even less chance of that. **You have probably done something to offend them even if it was not intended or it may have even been an accident. Maybe you have a bad habit that you are completely unaware of.** That's right, that's very possible. **But, isn't it even more likely that you also are holding something against someone that is holding something against you?** Yes, I suppose so. **So, there is probably a mutual need for you to give and receive forgiveness when someone is holding something against you.** I'm sure that's true. **So, in answer to your question. Yes, I am very serious. If someone is holding something against you, I want you to go and be reconciled to them. Think of it as a ministry that I have given to you. In the unlikely event that you have no fault in the matter you would still be helping to release another person from the bondage of anger, bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness. Will you go and be reconciled to anyone that holds anything against you?** Yes, Lord, I will.

Lord, I don't want anything to hinder my fellowship with you. I want to worship you with my entire being. I know it is crazy to think I can have broken relationships with other people and have an unhindered relationship with you. Help me to reconcile with others. Amen

Remember*Be Reconciled*

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

NIV

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Be Reconciled*

"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

NLT

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Be Reconciled*

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

NRSV

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Make Peace*

So if when you are offering your gift at the altar you there remember that your brother has any [grievance] against you, Leave your gift at the altar and go. First make peace with your brother, and then come back and present your gift.

AMP

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Be Reconciled*

"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

NASB

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Be Reconciled*

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

ESV

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Be Reconciled*

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

NKJV

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Make Things Right*

"This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.

MSG

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Be Reconciled*

"So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and suddenly remember that a friend has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar and go and apologize and be reconciled to him, and then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

TLB

Matthew 5:23-24

Remember*Make Peace*

"So when you offer your gift to God at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there at the altar. Go and make peace with that person, and then come and offer your gift.

NCV

Matthew 5:23-24

Be Reconciled

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Rhythms – Matthew 5:23-24

In Context: *Read Matthew 5*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Therefore, | if you | are offering | your gift | at | the altar | and | there | remember that | your brother | has something | against you, | leave | your gift | there | in front | of the | altar. | First go | and | be reconciled | to | your brother; | then come | and | offer | your gift. Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I don't want anything to hinder my fellowship with you. I want to worship you with my entire being. I know it is crazy to think I can have broken relationships with other people and have an unhindered relationship with you. Help me to reconcile with others. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When has it been very difficult to consider reconciling your differences with another person?

Why is it important to have a sense of urgency about reconciling your differences with other people?

Why is it important for you to reconcile your differences with another person even when you are not at fault?

When has unreconciled differences with other people hindered your ability to worship the Lord?

When have you gone and reconciled your differences with someone who had something against you?

What has happened to you after you have reconciled your differences with someone who has something against you?

What freedom to worship the Lord have you felt after you reconciled your differences with another person?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be ready and willing to go and reconcile your differences with anyone that has something against you.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to reconcile your differences with anyone who has something against you.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group when you have gone and reconciled your differences with someone.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you go and be reconciled with anyone who has anything against you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will go and be reconciled with anyone who has anything against me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, who do I need to go and be reconciled with today?
