

September 6th 2026 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁸⁻¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or 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 that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.	➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.
➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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In this week’s gospel we see the way Jesus deals with conflict. He goes through a series of procedures starting with those which will cause the least hurt. He then gradually moves to more severe ones always making sure that the others have been tried and failed. The setting of this teaching is not in a court of law but a human community. Jesus always preached love rather than tolerance and he has promised us he will be there in the midst of all those who call on him for assistance. How have you experienced the presence of Jesus in his followers gathered together in community?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for sending us people who show us how to handle quarrels. Like Jesus they do not lash us in an abstract way but walk with us when we have to deal with a problem.

Forgive us Lord when conflicts arise, we make them public too quickly instead of taking time to sort them out privately first.

Help us Lord to remember that love will always respect human freedom including peoples right to say no, even to God’s love. Today’s second reading tells us ‘love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour.’