



### **HOME RUN Devotional #18 – GETTING PERSONAL**

**By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson**

Have you ever been offended by someone? Absolutely, I would venture to say we all have. What do you do when that happens? The tendency is to avoid the person and go and tell others what has happened. Facebook is filled with people going public with their offenses. Sharing with others ends up offending the person that offended us, and sometimes even the people we shared with. It gets quite messy and it doesn't solve any problems. Recently I heard Dr. Laural Buckingham say, "Being resentful is like drinking poison in hopes that it will kill someone else." So what are we to do when we are offended? We should follow the instructions found in the Bible! It's called the Matthew 18 Principal. **Matthew 18:15-16 says, "If another believer sins against you (Myron paraphrase "offends you"), go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.** So, if someone offends us, what are we to do? Go privately! What???? We aren't to post it all over Facebook, Twitter, and tell everyone? Nope! Why? Because people matter to God, and since they matter to God they are to matter to us! We aren't to hold onto grudges. We are to love people in spite of everything. Seriously? Yep! **1 Peter 4:8 (NLT) says, "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins."**

It will take courage, discipline, and obedience to do the right thing, but it's much better than the alternative. The person that has offended us may not be receptive and may not ever be reconciled to us, but you will have not drank the poison and will have done the right thing. **Psalm 106:3 (NLT) There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right.**

**Question for today:** Who has offended you that you need to go to out of love to seek reconciliation?

**Verses to look up:** Matthew 6:15, Colossians 3:13, Mark 11:25, Luke 23:34

**Prayer for this week:** Dear Jesus, Thank you for a new day--a day that I can worship you, love you, and serve you! Thank you for helping me to win dependence upon you. Help me every day to take time to realize that it ALL begins and ends with you.

Thank you for helping me to "win within" by being a person of integrity. Help me to regularly examine myself and seek Your forgiveness for sin. Help me to realize that life is short and eternity is forever so that I will walk in obedience to you, letting go of all else that consumes me except for You.

Thank you for helping me to "win with others" by seeing them the way that You see them. Help me to love people and use things rather than use people and love things. Use me this day to influence someone for you.

Help me to continue to pray and believe for breakthroughs even when I don't see them. Thank you for the breakthroughs that have happened in my life and my church. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen