

*Daily devotions for  
2019*



**Day 18**  
Matthew 5  
Sermon on the Mount  
Pt3

*23 "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."  
Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)*

Forgiveness is important - and we are taught to reconcile with one another, rather than holding on to our tensions and anger. Often when we consider this, we think of how we must forgive other - go and reconcile with all those people who wound us up.

But here, we are being told not just to reconcile with the people we have problems with, but also to go to those who might have problems with us. Whether we feel ourselves responsible or not for their upset is not the key point, it is that we make our peace, rather than becoming estranged from a brother or sister in Christ.

A significant part of this message is that it doesn't stop with "go and be reconciled to that person" but goes back to finishing offering our sacrifice to God. This is important in highlighting how we must not only follow God regarding the ways of the earth, but also go back to him at the end. Reconciliation is all well and good, but if you don't bring it back to God, you are just another nice person.

### **Prayer**

*Dear God,  
Please help us to reconcile with people  
With loved ones, friends and family  
With enemies and strangers.  
And when we do this  
Let it not be for selfish gain  
For our own pride or arrogance.  
But let it be for you  
For you commanded it  
As you told us to love one another  
Let us do so through reconciliation.  
And most of all  
Please help us not give reason  
For others to have anything against us  
Let us maintain your peace.  
In your name,  
Amen.*