

PRAYING TOGETHER

Mt. 18:18-20

Introduction: Mt. 18:18-20.....Almost frightening words! Prayer is a fearsome thing. Prayer is a powerful thing: divided seas, rolled up flowing rivers, turned rocks into fountains, quenched flames of fire, muzzled mouths of lions, disarmed snakes and poisons, gathered stars against the wicked, stopped the course of the moon, stopped the sun, broken open iron gates of prisons, brought back souls from eternity, conquered the strongest devils, commanded legions of angels down from heaven, bridled and chained the raging passions of men, destroyed vast armies of proud, daring idol worshippers, brought one man from the bottom of the sea and carried another off in a chariot of fire. These are but a speck in the many great things prayer has done. Prayer is indeed an awesome, mighty force in the world of men.

V. 18

- **Binding and Loosing:** Sounds like a fairy tale with a magic ring, a lamp, a word which could do the strangest things..(describe some)..

- Jesus was saying that it is possible for people like us to exercise extraordinary power that heaven would in some way grant what we ask.

- **Heaven and Earth:** We know where earth is, but where, exactly, is heaven? Way off out there somewhere? Russian cosmonauts looked for it in space and decided since they didn't see it, it does not exist. So where is heaven? Jesus is telling us that Heaven is the silent, invisible, spiritual kingdom which lies all around us, encompassing us, enclosing us, embracing us, waiting for us to recognize it.

- We touch, feel, see, and sense things of earth with our five senses. But like a reflection of our image in a mirror, we can see the image of heaven.

- **Why does God wait until Christians pray before He begins to do what He has intended all along, even announced what He will do?** James wrote: *"You have not because you ask not."* (4:2) God waits until we ask before He moves.

- Jesus is telling us here that God has granted powers of binding and loosing to every believer, and until we act upon them, nothing happens.

- God has said that we have power to bind every form of evil force, every contrary authority within us.

- God has told us that we war against evil authorities and powers in high places but that we have power to bring them under control in our lives as we recon ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto God.

- God has told us that we have power to loose the full flood of the Holy Spirit's resources into our own lives. **There is not one of us that has any excuse for not being all God intends us to be! We are as victorious as we want to be!**

This is the meaning of intercessory prayer! What it can do to - for others!

V19:

- **Prayer is an authority which is expressed in UNITY!** One Christian praying alone is of great effect, but what about where two or more are gathered together? *"One of you shall chase a thousand, but two of you shall chase ten thousand."* (Deut. 32:30)

- The church came together to pray after the Sanhedrin had persecuted them. The church came together to pray for Peter who was in prison and was delivered by an angel.

- What is the purpose of two or more praying together? Jesus says that it is that we might agree together. What does **agree** mean? To stand together. To Harmonize...**(go to piano and strike odd keys, then similar keys)**... One christian tells another what is on his/her heart, what he/she believes God wants him/her to pray for, the other agrees, they harmonize, they sound together that prayer **and God hears!**

- What does "**Amen!**" mean?

V. 20: Notice the first word: "**For..**" the cause to answered prayer where there is harmony among several for the same prayer: **Christ is in them as they are praying. "All power in heaven and on earth is given unto me."** So when a Christian prays, it is not just one person praying, it is Christ also praying through that person.

- Prayer, therefore, is God the Son praying to God the Father in the power of God the Holy Spirit, and in the prayer room of the believer's heart.

Eph. 3:17-19: The expression of the power of Jesus Christ can be better seen in more than just one Christian. Get several christians together who are in harmony in prayer, Jesus and answered prayer may be seen all the more.

- The power to bind and loose comes from the Father to the Son through the Spirit to the God's children. It is only through the presence of Jesus Christ that prayer has proper meaning and value.

"Father, what a mistake we make when we try to make things complex. How wonderful it is to come back to the simplicity which is in Jesus Christ. How foolish we are to seek substitutes for that simplicity, that simple relationship of a mighty, overpowering, victorious Lord in the midst of His Church. Lord, teach us to glory in this, teach us to reckon upon it, teach us to pray on this basis and this alone, and, having recognized that these things are true, regardless of what circumstances around us may be, grant us the faith to step out upon them and act upon them. In Christ's name.....