

# THE WOODLAND HILLS PROCLAIMER

"how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you"

Acts 20:20

## SUNDAY

9:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY  
10:30 AM – A.M. ASSEMBLY  
6:00 PM – P.M. ASSEMBLY

## WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM – BIBLE STUDY

*Woodland Hills church of Christ*  
410 Woodland Hills Drive  
Conroe, Texas 77303  
Telephone: 936/756-9322

## ELDERS

WAYNE REED      HARROLD  
STARR

## DEACONS

JAMES COST  
JIM COOK  
VERNON RIEHL

VOLUME 2 WEEK 39

To our visitors – "WELCOME" - Thank you for choosing to visit with us

SEP 27, 2009

# Have You Ever Considered Yourself Part of A Rescue Team



## Part 1

by: John Chaney

This article stems from a gospel meeting visit and a great lesson that Jason Moore preached from the Word of God. I believe what we can learn is that we as Christians are part of a Rescue Team. Its one established by our Father through His Son Jesus Christ. Let's look at Matthew 18:15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

First let's look at the context of where this statement originates from. We can go back to Matthew 18:1 to see what invokes the comments given by our Lord. Verse 1; At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" From this question Jesus begins to let us know how our attitude should be toward one another. He also lets us know that we are part of a Rescue Team and we will get into that as we go.

With the question of who is greatest, our Lord masterfully puts before the disciples a visual display of purity and humility. Matthew 18:2; Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Here our Lord speaks to our attitude and how we should look at things. He also let's us know of our influence and example. This should discipline us to have the humility we should. Matt: 18:6 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Here we see that our influence and responsibility is tied to disciple. This should give us the desire to have the humility we should have when it comes to others.

When it comes to our family the church and all men we should have a humility that esteems others more highly than ourselves. This is surely one of the many lessons we can glean from the comments Jesus makes in Matt 18. Let's also look at what Paul wrote to the brethren in Rome. Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. This humility and frame of mind is important when it comes to our role as a Rescue Team member. Let us remember our goal is to win back the soul of our brother.

Lets look again at what Jesus says in Matthew 18:15 and begin to break it down. First is the comment if a brother sins against you. Here we have knowledge of something our brother has done. What ever it is and if it's wrong and I have knowledge of it, it's against me. Here Jesus establishes the Rescue Team. Jesus says "go" and tell him his fault between you and him alone". Here I'm sent on my rescue mission for my brother. Jesus reminds us in a parallel story of the lost sheep in the previous verses. Mat 18:12 "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? 13 And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. It not being our Father's will that any should parish, puts the responsibility on us to become our Father's Rescue Team. Notice also that Jesus says GO tell him. That means face to face, not in a letter or an email. This is possibly the most challenging part of our rescue mission. As a society we don't like confrontation. We usually try to avoid it at all cost. But I believe we can surely see the wisdom in our Lords directive. In going to our Brother it shows a love that I care no matter how uncomfortable I may be. There may be tears shed and other emotions of concern and love that aren't always easy but it shows the humility and care I should have towards my brother.

Second in our role as a rescue team member we are told by Jesus to, "tell him his fault between you and him alone". Here you see a respect for our brother's reputation. Here again the wisdom of our Father showing the type of love we have for our brother. This should help in gaining our brother back. Done as we are told shows our brother we respect him and truly care.

Third we are told to expand our rescue team if our brother doesn't hear us. Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.' Here again our attitude and humility of heart is crucial. It shouldn't be approached as a witch hunt, but should be approached with Love for our brother. We should surely be mindful of a comment made by Paul to the brethren at Galatia in Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Our attitude is important in winning our brother back. We see here that our rescue mission has gotten tougher and we are given extra team members to make sure that we don't miss anything. These extra team members could also help with wisdom and should be chosen carefully, with our brother in mind. We must be careful not to just choose those who would be easily persuaded by what we may believe. We should choose those who would be neutral and maybe have more persuasion on our brother. This would show our humility and love to our brother and our desire to rescue them.

Forth we see the team expanded to the church. Matthew 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church." We have to be careful to not just look at this as a process and miss the love behind what is being done. Here we reached a point in our rescue mission where more numbers are needed. As a fellow family member each of us in the church should contact and reach out to our brother showing our concern for their soul. If done correctly this should show the love we have for our brother. Even if done correctly it doesn't always meet the desired result and when that is the case we are also given instruction to show discipline. The remainder of Matthew 18:17 But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Discipline although not considered in our society as it should be is also a form of Love. The goal here is for the discipline to bring our brother back. It doesn't mean I'm not to continue to try to reach my brother and seek the return of his fellowship. This discipline is to make sure our brother knows there's a problem and also others in the family.

In conclusion, we all have a responsibility to one another. We are all part of a rescue team for God. Humility is crucial and should be tempered love and discipline, being mindful of our own weaknesses. We should never forget the mission the mission of our rescue team. It's the soul of our brother. Our rescue team has a second mission and we will get into that in Part II of, Have You Ever Considered Yourself Part Of A Rescue Team.

## WOODLAND HILLS NEWS AND NOTES

**Harrold Starr** – has been sick the past week. Hopefully he is able to join us today.

**Ruby Goad** – treatment was postponed. She is need of an additional test prior to treatment and is waiting on the insurance company to approve the test.

**PRAYER LIST:** Janice Billeri, Mindy Blackstone, Haskell & Doris Butler, Ruby Goad, Jerry Harrell, Bill & Jo Ellen McCarty, Leola Pence, Nelva Peyton, Jerri Scott, Bertie Strokos, James & Lou Ann Webb, Jennifer West, Jane Zeitz and Cindy Kirkwood (from Southside)

## **PROVERB OF THE WEEK**

**10:17**

**He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray**

## **SCHEDULE TO SERVE - Oct 4th**

### AM – Service

Announcements: Jim Cook  
Song Leader: Jim Rains  
Lord Supper Bread: Ty West  
Asst: Eric Isenbarger  
Cup: Carl Scott  
Asst: Roy Hickenbottom  
Prayer Open: Luis Serpas  
Close: James Webb

### PM – Service

Song Leader: James Cost  
Lord Supper: Ty West  
Prayer Open: Bill Izenbarger  
Close: John Chaney