

## GRACE FILLED LEADERSHIP - Pre-Conference Devotion

The following devotion can be used as a 10-20 minute discussion opening a meeting to introduce the topic of the conference, "Grace Filled Leadership" and the subtopics, "Shepherding vs. Administration," "Raising up Leaders," and "Financial Health."

### Read Matthew 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup>"If your brother sins against you,<sup>b</sup> go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. <sup>16</sup>But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'<sup>c</sup> <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be<sup>d</sup> bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be<sup>e</sup> loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

### Discuss the following questions

1. Is this passage difficult for me? For us as leaders? As a congregation? How so?
2. What are the steps outlined here? Do I understand how they might be followed?
3. How important are the *relational* dynamics in this passage?
4. How important are the *institutional* dynamics in this passage?
5. What administrative difficulties does this passage raise? (For example, what if the "brother" in verse 15 happens to be a staff person, a volunteer leader, an elder, or the pastor himself? How are disagreements or failures resolved?)
6. What might be one purpose of a governing body in this passage? Do I feel this passage advocates a strong governing body or a loose, decentralized body?
7. At last year's ministry leaders' conference, Dr. Peter Steinke spoke about "triangulation." What is triangulation? How does this passage, when followed, prevent triangulation?
8. How do you interpret verse 18 in the context of the previous verses?
9. We normally associate the "two or three gathered" in verse 20 as a context of worship. What kind of context does this passage provide?

### Questions we would like to ask at the conference:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

You are invited to submit feedback and questions for the conference ahead of time! Send your questions as they arise to [tlcpastor@optonline.net](mailto:tlcpastor@optonline.net).