

Bring Him Back

James 5.19-20

- The American military has long had the saying “No man left behind”
 - It emphasizes the importance of each member, honors them for being in the fight,
 - It requires that each member be accountable for each other member, alive, wounded, injured, dead
 - It is a powerful reminder of their being brothers in arms, but also reminds of the dangers
- James 5:19-20 (ESV) 19 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.



Anyone among you wanders from the truth

- Anyone among you wanders from the truth.



Anyone among you wanders from the truth

- Among You:
 - While seeking those who are not Christians is very important
 - It is just as important that we help brothers in Christ who have wandered.
 - “wander” = gradually moving away from the truth
 - OT = backsliding

Anyone among you wanders from the truth

**So it is not the will of my Father
who is in heaven that one of
these little ones should perish.**

Matthew 18:14

- Matthew 18:12-14 (ESV) 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Anyone among you wanders from the truth

**People will not endure sound teaching ...
and will turn away from listening to the
truth and wander off into myths.**

2 Timothy 4:3, 4

- From the Truth

- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- Hebrews 2:1-2 (ESV) 1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV) 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Anyone among you wanders from the truth

And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Jude 22-23

- Ways of Wandering

- Jude 1:22-23 (ESV) 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.
- Doubt
- Fire
- Stained by the Flesh

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- Someone Brings Him Back
 - (to Christ!)

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they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first

2 Peter 2:20

- Understanding the Danger

- Death (20)

- Worse than before being saved

- 2 Peter 2:20-22 (ESV) 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

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For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment

Hebrews 10:26

- No more sacrifice for sins

- Hebrews 10:26-31 (ESV) 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

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If your brother sins, rebuke him,
and if he repents, forgive him

Luke 17:3

- Turning Back the Straying
 - I must seek them
 - Luke 17:3-4 (ESV) 3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."Don't gossip about their sin to others and ignore the one who needs to be talked to.
 - Keep seeking the one who wanders away from Christ (7 times)

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If your brother sins, rebuke him,
and if he repents, forgive him

Luke 17:3

- Rebuke them with sin and proof
 - Every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses
 - Don't bring presumption and rumor.
- Repent ... help them change back to God
- Anticipate a good result ... be ready to forgive!

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Keep watch on yourself,
lest you too be tempted
Galatians 6:1

- I must be careful
 - Galatians 6:1-2 (ESV) 1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Spiritual: be mature
 - Gentleness: God's word is a sword, but we must be careful how we use it!
 - meekness: God's power in my life under His control.

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correcting his opponents with gentleness
2 Timothy 2:25

- 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ESV) 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
 - Aware of danger
 - Those who have strayed from the truth have been deceived.
 - I can be deceived too, especially if they use the Bible (wrongly).
 - Bear their burdens: help them overcome the deceit.

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preach the word
2 Timothy 4:2

- I must point them back to the truth! 2 Timothy 4:2-4
 - 2 Timothy 4:2-4 (ESV) 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

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preach the word
2 Timothy 4:2

- In love
 - Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”

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preach the word
2 Timothy 4:2

- Appropriate Help (one size fits all is not appropriate)
 - Jude 1:22-23 (ESV) 22 And have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.
 - Doubt — Mercy
 - Fire — snatch out of fire
 - Stained — Mercy with fear

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love covers all offenses
Proverbs 10:12

- Restoring Relationship (20)
- Proverbs 10:12 (ESV) 12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.
- 2 Corinthians 2:6-8 (ESV) 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

Someone Brings Him Back

love covers all offenses
Proverbs 10:12

- When we do this, there is cause to rejoice!
 - Matthew 18:13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.



**Be Someone
For Anyone
&
Bring Them Back**

- Be someone
 - for anyone and
 - Bring him back
-
- Are willing to help them? Do it this week, and be persistent: Bring them back to Jesus!
 - Leave no saint behind!

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Bring Him Back

James 5:19-20

Synopsis: In this lesson we are reminded that some wander from the truth and we have the great responsibility of trying to bring him back. I must seek the one who sins, pointing them back to the truth and seeking to restoring the relationship with God. Our goal is repentance and forgiveness.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”