

## THE HEART BEFORE THE TABLE

Matthew 5:23-24

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***"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."***

— Matthew 5:23-24 (NKJV)

Jesus warns us in Matthew 5 that worship is not just about the external act—bringing our gift to the altar—but about the condition of our hearts.

If we remember that a brother or sister has something against us, we are to stop, leave our gift, and go first to be reconciled. This truth carries deep meaning for Christians who come to the **Lord's Supper**—the sacred remembrance of Christ's sacrifice.

**How can we rightly partake of the bread and cup if we hold unforgiveness in our hearts?**

The Lord's Supper is a symbol of unity in Christ's body (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). To approach it with bitterness or anger toward a fellow believer fracture that unity.

Jesus calls us to reconcile first because the **heart must be right with others** before it can be right with God (Romans 12:18). Holding unforgiveness is like presenting a gift to God with a hidden offense; it hinders true fellowship with Him and His people.

Before you come to the Lord's Table, take a moment to examine your heart. Are there unresolved offenses or bitterness toward a brother or sister? If so, obey Jesus' command—seek reconciliation first.

Let forgiveness flow, reflecting the grace you have received through Christ.

Remember the grace extended to you: ***“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”***  
(Ephesians 4:32 NKJV)

Only then can you partake in the Lord’s Supper with a heart at peace, honoring both God’s sacrifice and His call to love one another.

Remember it is **the heart before the table** , not **the table before the heart** !