

Getting a Grip on Wanderers

James 5:19-20

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back,

²⁰ you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

James 5:19-20

- Is he talking about Christians?
- I mean can a Christian wander from the truth?
- How are we supposed to bring him or her back?
- If we don't will they really die?

- I mean physical death?
- Does it have anything to do with their eternal life?
- Whose sins are forgiven if I bring them back?

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12 No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

Genesis 4:12

10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10

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15 "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.

Matthew 18:15

16 But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:16

17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

Matthew 18:17

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James 5:20

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James 5:20

Look at it this way. If someone has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders off, doesn't he leave the ninety-nine and go after the one?

And if he finds it, doesn't he make far more over it than over the ninety-nine who stay put?

Your Father in heaven feels the same way. He doesn't want to lose even one of these simple believers.

Matthew 18:12-14 TM

18 If I warn the wicked, saying, 'You are under the penalty of death,' but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths.

19 If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.

Ezekiel 3:18-19

20 "If righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and ignore the obstacles I put in their way, they will die.

And if you do not warn them, they will die in their sins. None of their righteous acts will be remembered, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths.

Ezekiel 3:20

²¹ But if you warn righteous people not to sin and they listen to you and do not sin, they will live, and you will have saved yourself, too.”

Ezekiel 3:21

Group Discussion

- Describe a time in which you found yourself “wandering?”
- Why did you turn back?
- Discuss the Jesus’ principle in Matthew 18:15-17.

Group Discussion

- Do you know of a brother or sister who is wandering right now?
- Describe how you could apply Matthew 18:15-17 to that situation.
