

# Matthew 5:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

## Analysis

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Worship means nothing if relationships are broken. Before offering sacrifice, reconciliation must occur. Jesus prioritizes horizontal relationships as essential to vertical worship. God refuses gifts from those unwilling to make peace with others.

## Historical Context

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Temple worship involved bringing sacrifices to the altar. This was considered the highest act of devotion. Jesus shockingly says even this must be interrupted if reconciliation is needed—showing that love for others is inseparable from love for God.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Is there anyone you need to reconcile with before you can worship God authentically?
2. How does unresolved conflict poison your prayer life and worship?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐὰν	οὖν	προσφέρῃς	τὸ	δῶρόν	σοῦ	ἐπὶ	τὸ
if	Therefore	thou bring	G3588	gift	thee	to	G3588
G1437	G3767	G4374		G1435	G4675	G1909	
θυσιαστήριον	κάκεῖ	μνησθῆς	ὅτι	ὁ	ἀδελφός	σοῦ	
the altar	and there	rememberest	that	G3588	brother	thee	
G2379	G2546	G3415	G3754		G80	G4675	
ἔχει	τι	κατὰ	σοῦ				
hath	ought	against	thee				
G2192	G5100	G2596	G4675				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 11:25** (Parallel theme): And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

**Matthew 5:24** (Sacrifice): Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

**Matthew 8:4** (Parallel theme): And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

**Matthew 23:19** (Sacrifice): Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

**Luke 19:8** (Parallel theme): And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

**1 Samuel 15:22** (Sacrifice): And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

**Hosea 6:6** (Sacrifice): For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

