

## Matthew 10

11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. 15 Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Coming Persecutions

16 "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

1. Have you ever had an experience of being judged by the Church or by other Christians? What was it like?
2. Are there situations where it is reasonable to judge others?
3. Do you think Christians can sometimes struggle to 'shake the dust off their feet' and move on? Why might that be?
4. 'Wise as serpents and as innocent as doves' What do you think Jesus means by this?

## Matthew 18

15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

5. Does Jesus' advice about dealing with difficult or bad people make sense to you? Do you think this should only apply to folk in the Church (which is the direct subject of this passage) or should be extended to all?
6. When is it appropriate to forgive someone who you've limited or stopped contact with?
7. Activity. On a piece of paper, write down on the left hand side any situation you feel you need to leave behind. Then in the middle column write down 'shake the dust off your feet' and on the right hand column write down what you hope to gain from moving on and shaking the dust from your feet