

## **Spiritual Garbage Cans**

*Scripture reading:* Matthew 18:15-17

When a person brings evil tidings to you concerning another, and asks you to keep it a secret, he or she is binding you from your duty towards God. He or she lets loose a demon spirit upon you against your brother, and at the same time USES YOU AS A GARBAGE CAN to dump spiritual waste. Do not allow it. Either do not listen, or if they tricked you into listening, let it cease with you by applying Matthew 18:15-17.

- 1) Tell him his fault privately.
- 2) If no result, then tell him with witnesses.
- 3) If no result, then tell it to the church. You will ask the question, "Which church?" The answer is a gathering or group of the called-out saints, real saints.
- 4) If no result, then he does not regard God's authority on earth, so pray for him as for a sinner, show him love, and commend him to judgment which will surely fall upon him to bring him back to God.

THIS IS THE METHOD OF DEALING WITH GARBAGE. Unless a person wants to be exposed in the future, he will not come to you with tales against God's people.

We are our brother's keeper. If you entertain evil thoughts against the people of God, and that which you have heard is true against them, then you immediately become responsible to help them repent. If the tales are not true, then the Christians who spread them should be brought to account.

(Excerpt from *The Pattern*, pg. 102)

*Thought for today:* Do not allow anyone to use you as a garbage can to dump spiritual waste.