

“Put Your Sword Away”

Pastor Ray Hudson – May 5, 2019

John 18:1-11 — After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.

Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. “Who are you looking for?” he asked. “Jesus the Nazarene,” [a] they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) 6 As Jesus said “I am he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground! 7 Once more he asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

And again they replied, “Jesus the Nazarene.” “I told you that I am he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.” He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.”

Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave. But Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”

When We Allow Revenge Into Our Hearts:

It COST us more than we’re willing to PAY,
takes us FURTHER than were willing to GO, and leaves us wounded
and UNSATISFIED!

Understanding The Hidden Cost Of Revenge:

1. Revenge will offer us momentary FULFILLMENT, while costing us a lifetime of REGRET.

Colossians 3:12-13 — Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

2. Revenge will steal your PEACE of mind, and replace it with emotional BONDAGE.

Colossians 3:14-15 — Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

3. Revenge tricks us into PROTECTING our rights, while SECRETLY destroying our credibility as a Christ follower.

Colossians 3:16-17 — Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Verse For The Week: Romans 12:17-21

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.

For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." **Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.**

Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Take a few minutes and catch up with each other. Share some “wins” from the past week or so.

DIGGING IN: This week we discussed The Hidden Cost of REVENGE (Put The Sword Away). Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 how does it describe how we should treat people?

1. Discuss as a group the difficulty of not defending our rights when people wrong us. What are some of the hidden costs you have seen when taking revenge?
2. Review point number one from Sunday’s message. Discuss a time when you gave into the momentary fulfillment of revenge. How did it turn out?
3. Read John 18:1-11, and review points 1-3 and how they show up in John’s story. Which one of those three statements stands out most to you, and why?
4. What are practical ways you can put the sword away in your relationships?

BRINGING IT HOME: Read Romans 12:17-21. What verse or verses in this passage stand out to you? How can you apply it to your life this week?

Think also about how this message applies to your work and family. Too often we allow what people have done to us to dictate how we love them. We then react from a place of protecting our rights over representing Jesus. This week, choose to put the sword of revenge, retaliation and getting even, away and put on the attitude of Christ.