



Apr 28 & 29, 2018

Blood, Sweat & Tears
Part 5 ~ Vengeance & Retribution

Tom Burks

Genesis 50:15-21 (NIV)

◆ _____ comes from _____

Romans 12:17-21 (NIV)

Release your claim to _____

Treat them with basic _____

_____ **for them**

Matthew 5:43-44 (NIV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Thought Provoking:

What is your most common way to punish people who have hurt you (Scream, silent treatment, slur them, spread rumors, avoid them, other)? What makes holding a grudge feel like a good idea?

Share with your small group about a situation you were wanting retribution for, or a situation you are currently dealing with. Why are you having difficulty forgiving the person?

Digging Deeper:

1. Using the following verses, define God's right: Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalms 94:1-3, Nahum 1:2-3, Romans 13:4, Hebrews 10:30
2. Did God give us authority of judgement/vengeance? If we try to claim God's rights, are we not trying to be him (Deut. 5:7)? Did God give us the right to forgive (Luke 17:3-4)? Why do you think God gave us one but not the other? How have you seen the abuse of or the right use of either judgement or forgiveness used in today's world?
3. Luke 15:11-32 is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. How did the father react when he saw his wayward son? How did the brother react when he saw his wayward brother? How would this story be different (good or bad) if either the father or the son had reacted differently? Who do you best relate to in this parable?
4. In Mathew 6:15 and Luke 17:4, Jesus sets the standard of forgiveness. In Luke 23:34, Jesus lives out the example of the standard. What is within us that prevents us from doing what Jesus did?

Prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will.

Application:

1. Make a "retribution list"
2. Write names, or initials, or code words of occurrences of people you want retribution with
3. Cross out retribution and write "forgiveness"
4. Release your claim to hurt them back
5. Treat them with basic kindness
6. Pray for them
7. Cross their name off the list
8. Your goal: keep this list until you can cross off every name



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