

GRACE NOT REVENGE – GENESIS 42:21-28

SERIES: WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:19-21 (ESV)**

1. REVENGE IS RETALIATION

- Revenge is an attempt to even the scales of justice by punishing someone who wronged us. Some cases of revenge can be extreme.

³⁵ Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.’

Deuteronomy 32:35 (ESV)

³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **Hebrews 10:30-31 (ESV)**

2. THE APOSTLE PETER ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF REVENGE IN 1 PETER 2.

- He put it in the context of our relationship with Christ.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ... ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. **1 Peter 2:21, 23 (ESV)**

- “*Entrusting*” – in the Greek = to hand over or to deliver into someone else’s custody. In ancient Greece it was used to describe handing over a captive or delivering a prisoner to court.
- What does it mean to entrust yourself to God instead of taking revenge?

3. THE CHRISTIAN’S JOB IS TO SHOW LOVE, GRACE AND MERCY.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **Matthew 5:43-46 (ESV)**

- What comes to mind when you consider giving your best through Christ, to the people you need to forgive, or you find difficult to love?

4. FORGIVENESS VACILLATES, THE GOAL IS CHOOSING AND TRYING TO FORGIVE.

- Forgiveness has good days and bad days. It has anger intermingled with love and irregular mercy. When it comes to forgiveness, we are all learners. No one has arrived.

⁴³ “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, **Matthew 5:43-44 (MSG)**

²⁹ And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!” ³⁰ Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there. **Genesis 43:29-30 (ESV)**

- ¹ Then he commanded the steward of his house, “Fill the men’s sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man’s money in the mouth of his sack, ² and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain.” And he did as Joseph told him. **Genesis 44:1-2 (ESV)**