

An End To Revenge

Read: Romans 12:9-21

Do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. —Romans 12:19

The newspaper headline read: NO END TO CYCLE OF REVENGE IN MIDEAST. In the wake of suicide bombings and military retaliation, the article told of a 28-year-old man consumed with avenging his uncle's death. "When someone dear to you is killed," he said, "you can't sleep; you have to do something." But even after killing two men he considered enemies, he still had no sense of satisfaction. No one can ever win by trying to even the score.

Is there a cycle of revenge in your life today? Perhaps it's an on going verbal battle with a co-worker, a spouse, or a child. It may be a simmering feud with a neighbor or even someone at church. Whatever it is, our Lord wants it to end.

Revenge is a weapon of such devastating power that God alone can handle it. He said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay" (Romans 12:19). The weapon He has entrusted to us is kindness: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink . . . Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (vv.20-21).

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't appeal to courts for justice in some cases. But because God is just, we don't have to personally repay those who wrong us. With kindness and love, we can bring an end to revenge. —David McCasland

以德报怨

读经: 罗马书 12 章 9-21 节

金句: 「亲爱的弟兄, 不要自己伸冤, 宁可让步, 听凭主怒。因为经上记着: 『主说: 伸冤在我, 我必报应。』」(罗马书 12 章 19 节)

有一份报纸的头条新闻报导: 中东的复仇行动永无止息。在报导一连串自杀式炸弹和军事报复的新闻后, 一篇文章揭示一名 28 岁的青年, 因叔叔被杀而誓要报复。他说: 「当你的至亲被杀害, 你根本无法入睡, 一定要有所行动。」但即使杀死两名他认定的敌人以后, 他仍不满足。在冤冤相报中, 根本没有赢家。

在你的生命中, 是否也有这样的报复心态? 这可能是与同事、配偶或小孩之间不断的言语冲突; 或者是跟邻居甚至教会朋友反目。不管是什么, 我们的主也希望你能就此打住。

报复是极具毁灭性的武器, 只有上帝有能力处理。他说: 「伸冤在我, 我必报应。」(罗马书 12 章 19 节)。他交给我们使用的武器则是仁慈: 「你的仇敌若饿了, 就给他吃; 若渴了, 就给他喝.....你不可为恶所胜, 反要以善胜恶。」(第 20-21 节)

然而, 这并不代表在所有不公平的情况下, 我们都不能诉诸法律。但因为上帝是公义的, 对于得罪我们的人, 我们都不需要靠自己来报复。凭着慈善和仁爱, 我们就可以终止报复。