

RETALIATION

INTRODUCTION

Romans 12:19 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."

DISCUSSION

When have you noticed your plans and God's plans come into conflict?
What Happened?

EXPLANATION

Have you ever taken revenge (little or big) on someone?
How?
Which do people spend more time doing: offering forgiveness or plotting revenge?
Why do you think this is?

APPLICATION (GENESIS34)

Read Judges 15:1-11.
How do you think this story of Sampson escalated so fast (wife → goat → 300 foxes → destruction of income → 3000 men)?
Is there any way the conflict in Judges or Genesis 34 of this sort, could have been solved without all the devastation?
What is the best way to get a look at our problem from the outside?

MISSION

How can believers help to bring reconciliation instead of retribution?
In what ways can our relationships be made stronger by being those who push for reconciliation?
How is God glorified when people put down their weapons of destruction?

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Genesis 35:1-5
What do you think it means to "reorient" your life?
Have you ever done it?



GENESIS

THE FINAL CHAPTERS

RETALIATION

PART 52

GENESIS 34

Romans 12:18-19
Genesis 34:1-31
Deuteronomy 22:23-29

2 Samuel 13:12-14
Lamentations 5:11
1 Peter 2:23

Romans 12:19
Matthew 5:43-44

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
TONIGHT, 6pm

MOE GO KART RACING
February 16th
<http://goo.gl/hu2Fh>

NEWCOMER PARTY
This Friday, Feb. 1st, 7pm.
At the Evan's home:
5660 Elkhorn Lane

RSVP at:
<http://goo.gl/y6ZuP>

BAPTISMS
Want to be baptized?
Signup: <http://goo.gl/bs7zk>

GOSPEL CLASS
Sundays at 9:30am

RETALIATION

Romans 12:19 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.”

Dinah has always been a mystery figure in the scriptures. We almost never read about her, except in Genesis 34; even the birth of Dinah was recorded without much comment in 30:21. But once Jacob and his descendants had departed from Paddan Aram and settled in the vicinity of Shechem (v18-20), Dinah became the center of a conflict between Jacob and the inhabitants of Canaan.

The point of the narrative is to reiterate the portrait of Jacob that has been central throughout these stories: a man who planned and schemed for what appears to be his own ends, but who in the end actually accomplished God’s purposes. In the Genesis 34 narrative, God’s purpose in setting apart the descendants of Abraham comes into jeopardy with the proposal of marriage between Dinah and Shechem.

Throughout the narrative we are reminded that the purpose of the marriage was that the family of Jacob should become “one people” (vv. 16, 22) with the inhabitants of Canaan. The last time such a proposal was made was in the building of the city of Babylon (11:6). The wording of the proposal also runs counter to Abraham’s admonition to the servant who sought a wife for his son Isaac in Genesis 24:3, *“Swear by the LORD the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living”*; or to Rebekah’s fear in the case of Jacob: *“If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living”* (27:46); or finally to Isaac’s command: *“Do not marry a Canaanite woman”* (28:1).

While the story in this chapter operates at a level of family honor and the brothers’ concern for their sister, the story also carries along the theme that runs so clearly through the Jacob narratives, namely, that God works through and often in spite of the limited self-serving plans of man. Moses’ purpose was not to approve Jacob’s sons’ plans, but rather to show how God, in His sovereign grace, could still achieve His purpose through them.

The word retribution is not found in the Scriptures...but...the idea is expressed in reference to the wrath of God. It has to do with vengeance, punishment, and ultimate judgment (Rom 1:18; 2:6), all of which are things that God reserves the right for Himself to accomplish. In a human context, retribution is the natural

outcome of sin either done to us, or done to others. (Gal 6:7-8; cf. Matt 3:7; Luke 3:7; 1 Thess 1:10; Rev 6:16).

This is why forgiveness is so important to a Christian understanding.

When the words “forgive others” are spoken, our natural inclination is to think about all the ways that statement doesn’t take into account how we have been hurt. There are truths about forgiveness:

- Forgiving is not condoning.
Forgiving is setting someone free in the depths of your heart.
- Forgiving is NOT forgetting.

Forgiveness is the state where your own heart resides, it doesn’t mean you continue to get abused, gossiped about, or lied to.

- Forgiving does not always mean reconciliation.

It doesn’t mean everything goes back the way it was. It takes 2 to reconcile, forgiveness only takes you.

- Forgiveness is a different issue than justice.

Forgiveness means you stop harboring evil intent for someone.

- Forgiving is personal.

You forgive people (not institutions or businesses).

- Forgiveness is a process.

2 truths about revenge:

- Revenge always escalates.
- Revenge is always tempting.

Its much more fun to plot how to bury someone than to let real justice unfold.

What do you with that anger that sits deep inside of you?

- Step 1: We surrender our own anger and right for Revenge.
- Step 2: We must trust God.
- Step 3: Turn the person who has wronged you over to God.

Rom 12:19 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.”

It is the only way we will ever get passed ourselves and truly live.