

Revenge is Easy; Forgiveness is Difficult

a lack of

Lessons in ^ Self-Control Pt 4

Judges 15:1-8

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Judges 14:20 (NLT) So his wife was given in marriage to the man who had been Samson's best man at the wedding.

Romans 12:17 (NLT) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.

Vengeance (AHD) - Infliction of punishment in return for a wrong committed; retribution.

Evidences of Vengeance

1) A cumulative effect of character flaws that lead up to vengeance.

Judges 15:1 Samson took a young goat as a present to his wife. He intended to sleep with her, but her father wouldn't let him in.

2) Disregard for those around us/closest to us.

Judges 15:2 "I really thought you hated her," her father explained, "so I gave her in marriage to your best man."

3) A tendency toward self-justification.

Judges 15:3 "This time I cannot be blamed for everything I am going to do to you Philistines."

Consequences of Vengeance

1) The crossfire factor.

Judges 15:6 (NLT) "Who did this?" "Samson," was the reply, ... So the Philistines went and got the woman and her father and burned them to death.

Proverbs 26:27 If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself.

2) Being controlled by the desire for revenge.

Judges 15:7-8a (NLT) "Because you did this," Samson vowed, "I will take my revenge on you, and I won't stop until I'm satisfied!" So he attacked the Philistines with great fury and killed many of them.....

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. ...the burden I give you is light."

3) A loner lifestyle

Judges 15:8b Then he went to live in a cave in the rock of Etam.

The Remedy for Vengeance: Forgiveness

1) An attitude of grace toward others.

Matthew 7:1-2 "Stop judging others, and you will not be judged...."

2) Settlement of grudges,

Matthew 7:3 And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye

3) Recognition of our own problems,

Matthew 7:4 How can you think of saying, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?

4) "Looking out for the other guy"

Matthew 7:5 Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.