

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT ~ week 2

THE TRAP OF REVENGE

The universal truth of being offended:

When we feel WRONGED, it feels right to get REVENGE.

“If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.” Genesis 4:24

Revenge is ALWAYS a trap.

It's not wrong to want JUSTICE.

It's right to want JUSTICE.

But it's wrong to take REVENGE.

To take vengeance on one's enemies is nobler than to come to terms with them; for to retaliate is just, and that which is just is noble. ~ Aristotle

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Luke 6:27-28

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:17-18

“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord.” Romans 12:19

What are some of the truths from this verse?:

1. It's right to want JUSTICE, but it's wrong to take REVENGE.

Why do we seek revenge?

Because we think revenge will remove the BITTERNESS.

Revenge, in the MOMENT, is quite REWARDING.

Revenge, in the LONG-TERM, never RELEASES you from the trap of offense.

What Jesus knew is revenge doesn't REMOVE the pain, it actually MAGNIFIES it.

2. It's GOD'S JOB to take revenge, and He's BETTER at it than you.

Responding to evil with evil doesn't OVERCOME IT, it only ADDS TO IT.

“Before you embark on a journey of revenge, you should first dig two graves.” Unknown

3. “LEAVE ROOM” means to give God the opportunity to get in the ring to avenge us.

Revenge gives us the ILLUSION OF CONTROL in a battle we will always LOSE.

4. When you take revenge, you LEAVE GOD OUT.

“No one heals himself by wounding another.” – St. Ambrose

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

CHALLENGE:

Name who you WANT REVENGE against?

Tag God in and “LEAVE ROOM” for him to act.

REDIRECT your energy to something GOOD.