

The David Series: Week 5 Devotions

In week 5 of the David Series we explored the theme of revenge in David's life. For this week the daily devotions will help us deal with revenge in our lives.

Day 1

Have you ever heard people say, "Revenge is sweet?" Question is, is it really?

Read:

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." (Romans 12:19)

Engage:

Why is this such a crucial promise in overcoming our drive revenge? The reason is that this promise answers one of the most powerful impulses behind anger — an impulse that is not entirely wrong. But In many cases, real wrongs have been done to us. Therefore, it is not entirely wrong to feel that justice should be done. What's wrong is to feel that we must make it happen and that we may feel bitter until it does.

Not paying revenge is not for the person who wronged you, but its for you. The anger and bitterness we feel eats us up on the inside. So God wants us to give Him all that anger and bitterness, for us to have a healthy body and mind.

"Cast your burden on the Lord,
And He shall sustain you;
He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."
(Psalm 55: 22)

God wants to carry our burdens for us. He also wants us to have the Spirit of Forgiveness. He is a God who keeps His promises. If He says he will fight for you, you best believe it.

The grace of God's judgment is promised to us here in Romans 12 as a means of helping us overcome such a deadly spirit of revenge and bitterness.

Paul's argument is that we can be sure that all wrongs will be dealt with by God and that we can leave the matter in his hands because vengeance belongs to the Lord. To motivate us to lay down our vengeful desires he gives us a promise: "I will repay, says the Lord"

Respond:

1. Are you willing to trust God Completely? Even when it doesn't make sense to do so?
2. Ask God to remove revenge, anger and bitterness in your heart
3. Ask God to help you forgive.

Pray:

Heavenly Father, Many people hurt us and betray in Life. It is painful and we realise that alone we cannot cope. We give all our anger, bitterness, worries and hate to you. We ask you to teach us forgiveness. We want to forgive, but its hard. That's why we come to you right now. We choose not to pay revenge, we choose to trust you. In Jesus' name.
AMEN.

Day 2

Remember: God has Got Your Back. Just give it all to Him.

Read:

When they hurled their insults at [Christ], he did not retaliate ... Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. (1 Peter 2:23)

Engage:

Revenge comes naturally to us. Movies and video games supply us with endless “blast the bad guys” scenarios. We think there is victory when our enemies are “justly punished” or “taken out.” But all that really does is remove the possibility of peacemaking and invite further retaliation.

God commands his people to do something supernatural: “Do not repay anyone evil for evil.” He tells us to let him be the judge; that is God’s place, not ours. And God will see that justice is done.

Sometimes we think that forgiving others—releasing them from our punishment—is a weak, inadequate response. We might view forgiveness as letting people get away with their sin. But when we forgive, we turn our offenders over to God for his perfect justice. That’s actually a very powerful move to make, in God’s strength.

There are many voices talking to us seeking our attention on everything. Let's choose to listen to the voice of the Father. Just like Jesus did.

On the cross, our Lord Jesus looked weak to those who mocked him. But he was not overcome with evil. He was powerfully overcoming sin, death, and hell with goodness and grace for us.

Are you willing to imitate him?

Pray:

Lord, forgive me for trying to get revenge. Teach me to give that up to you. Then please bring peace into my heart. Help us to have the heart of Jesus. Even when he could have destroyed everyone while he was on the cross he didn't. Help us to be like Jesus and focus on the goal. We are not here to harm people, but we are here to bring people to you. In Jesus name, we thank you Lord. Amen.

Day 3

God wants us to remain humble in all situations, and trust Him to take care of things. God has got your situation.

Read:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Engage:

We might think of humility as a form of weakness, but it is actually the very opposite. Humility is connected to meekness. Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." What is meekness? A literal definition of the word is power under constraint.

In the same way, when the Bible speaks of humility and meekness, it means surrendering our will to the will of God. Philippians 2:3 tells us, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

If you want to experience real joy, then put the acronym JOY into practice: Jesus. Others. Yourself. Put Jesus first. Put others second. Put yourself third. That is the joy we can experience. It is so simple, but I am amazed at the fact that very few people practice this. Getting rid of that edge to revenge you need you have JOY.

If you want real success, if you want true happiness, if you want to experience a deep and abiding joy instead of the fleeting happiness of this world, it is found in following Jesus and loving others. Happiness depends on what is happening in my life right now. But JOY comes from the Lord.

Reflection:

Think about someone in need and start doing something for that person. Then watch how joy will appear in your life as a byproduct.

Pray:

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving me joy. Now I know that Joy comes from you. Teach me Lord to be humble. To think of you and others first. To ask you what you want me to do before I react. I ask you this Lord in Jesus name. AMEN.

Day 4

Read:

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1John 4:7-8)

Engage:

God is love. This means that we need to love the same way Jesus did. His love was not conditioned by what was happening around Him. Jesus died for all of us on the Cross, including Judas who betrayed Him. Jesus knew that Judas was the one who betrayed Him. Yet He didn't exclude him from the forgiveness of sin. The only way we can be capable of loving people who do us wrong is to be plagued in to God. Have Jesus in our hearts. Not just that but talk to Him all the time. His Love does not care what you have done. His love is ready to forgive. We just need to go to Him and humble ourselves. We are also capable of giving the same kind of love. Remember that we are made in His image, after His likeness. Meaning that we are also like Him. How amazing is it that we can love like Jesus? When trouble comes, and people betray you- tell Jesus then sit back, relax and enjoy your coffee. Jesus has it all under control. Love God, Love yourself, Love your family and most of all love your enemies.

Pray:

Lord thank you for teaching us about your love. It's amazing that I am also capable to love like you do. Teach me Lord how to love my enemies. Help me Lord not to betray others. Not to cause others pain. I welcome the Holy Spirit to walk with me always. In Jesus name. AMEN

Day 5

Read:

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:7-8)

Engage:

This scripture talks to me in a big way. As Christians, God wants us to be an example to others. To be Role models. We need to have integrity. Does this mean that we are perfect? Definitely not. Though we need to strive for perfection. We need to lead the way for unbelievers not just by talking but also by what we do. Not being vengeful is one of the ways we can set an example for others. And by doing the right thing as the scripture says, people will not have anything to shoot you down. Let's allow God to teach us how to be that example. We do this by spending time with God and reading the bible. You just need to commit yourself to God fully. Little by little God will teach us how to be that example. I am also still asking God to show me the way so that I can be the best version of myself. Be who He wants me to be. I'm not perfect and I've asked God to shape me. Join me on this journey by praying this prayer.

Pray:

Lord I want to be an example to others. Teach me and show me how to. Walk with me and forgive all my sins. I give all my troubles, unforgiving heart, thoughts that are not from you. Lord I want to follow your pattern. Thank you for being with me and teaching me how to be a Disciple maker. In Jesus name. AMEN.

Day 6

Read:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Engage:

This verse tells us to not be anxious about anything. That can be pretty difficult. You might see a lot bad things going on in the world. Or feel that you're under too much stress at school. Even in the middle of all of these things, God tells us to not be anxious.

How is that possible? How can you go through life without being anxious? The rest of this verse tells us how to do it. We are to do two things: (1) Pray (2) Be thankful.

When we choose being thankful, it changes our perspective on the situation, like wanting to revenge. Instead of being stressed out about how demanding life is, you can be thankful that you live. In many cases, being thankful can turn your anxiety around. It's hard to be anxious when you're thankful.

Today choose to put aside your anxiety and choose to practice being thankful. You'll find that as you become thankful, it's hard to be anxious.

Pray:

Lord thank you that you are God. Thank you for the time you have given us. Teach me oh Lord to be more thankful and get rid of anxiety. May you keep me under the Shadow of Your wings. In Jesus Name. AMEN

Day 7

Read:

Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Engage:

How many times in life do you just wish that you knew the 'right' thing to do? All decisions have consequences and you wish that someone would just tell you what to do. When it comes to making decisions, its often easy to ignore what this Bible verse tells us. It says the Bible is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path. What that is telling us is this, when it isn't obvious the 'right' choice to make, we can rely on God's word for help. If you consult God first on all decisions you make. We wont go wrong. All you need to do is to read the bible, learn as much as you can from God. And pray. Make Jesus your best friend. He is the best friend who will never betray you. He will love you unconditionally and always there when you need Him.

Pray

Lord Jesus, your word says that you are a friend that sticks closer than a brother. I want to have this kind of relationship with you. Teach me your ways oh Lord. Thank you for always being there for me even when I wasn't aware of your presence. Thank you for your unconditional love. In Jesus name. AMEN