

~RCW~

DEALING WITH EVIL PEOPLE

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Romans 12:17-21: "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

The story of Joseph in Genesis 37 to 50 shows us how to deal with evil people.

Three Keys to Dealing with Evil People

1. I must KNOW the truth.

Genesis 45: 7 Joseph said, "God sent me."

- **Know that offenses must come.**
Matthew 18:7 "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come."

1 Peter 4:12-14 "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad - for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. If

you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.”

2 Timothy 3:12: "Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

- **Know that God is in control.**
Romans 8:28 "God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God."
- **Know that God will fight for you.** Romans 12:19 "‘It is Mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

Psalm 58:11 "There truly is a reward for those who live for God; surely

there is a God who judges justly here on earth.”

2. I must say NO to the evil.

Genesis 50:19 Joseph said, "Am I in the place of God?"

- **Say NO to repaying evil with evil.** Romans 12:17 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil.”

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Proverbs 16:7 “When people’s lives please the Lord, even their enemies are at peace with them.”

- **Say NO to revenge.** Romans 12:19 “Do not take revenge.”

Matthew 5:38-39 “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.”

- **Say NO to rejoicing at your enemies’ downfall.** Romans 12:20 “If your enemy is hungry, feed him.”

Proverbs 24:17-18 “Don’t rejoice when your enemies fall; don’t be happy when they stumble. For the Lord will be displeased with you and will turn His anger away from them.”

3. I must GROW in my response to evil.

Genesis 41:51-52 Joseph said, "God has made me forget. God has made me fruitful."

- **Grow in grace through humility.**

2 Peter 3:18 "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..."

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

- **Grow in faith in God.**

1 Peter 2:23 "When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly."

- **Grow in perseverance.**

James 1:2-4 "Whenever you face trials of many kinds, know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Memory Verse for this week:

Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."