



## The Week of September 5, 2021

### Revenge

### Conversation Guide

#### Last Week: Say This Instead

- Did you take some time to read Esther or look at Matthew 18:14-18? What are some of the insights that you had from those passages?
- Are you taking responsibility in your relationships more seriously after looking at last week's passages on having crucial conversations?
- Give an example of a time you held your tongue this past week because of what we've learned in Proverbs.

#### This Week's Take-Aways

- **I show great compassion:** (Psalm 82:3-4) I actively show my caring for those who are vulnerable in real and tangible ways.
- **Kindness:** (Matthew 7:12) I choose to treat others as I would like to be treated.
- **Goodness:** (Galatians 6:9-10) I will seek to do good to others even at great cost to myself.

#### Intro Questions

- What's your favorite "revenge" or "pay back" movie? Why do we find these types of movies appeal to us so much?
- Have you ever dealt with a bully? How did you handle it?
- Is revenge really sweet (or best served cold)?
- What is at the root of our desire for revenge?

## Don't React

- Revenge can feel great at the moment but has grave consequences. List five or more consequences of revenge.

Proverbs 20:22 (NLT)

*Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong."  
Wait for the Lord to handle the matter.*

- According to this verse, how should the wise person react to a wrong?

Proverbs 10:12

*Hatred stirs up conflicts,  
but love covers all offenses.*

Proverbs 14:29

*A patient person shows great understanding,  
but a quick-tempered one promotes foolishness.*

Proverbs 17:9

*Whoever conceals an offense promotes love,  
but whoever gossips about it separates friends.*

Proverbs 17:27

*The one who has knowledge restrains his words,  
and one who keeps a cool head is a person of understanding.*

Proverbs 24:29

*Don't say, "I'll do to him what he did to me;  
I'll repay the man for what he has done."*

Matthew 6:14–15

*"For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses."*

James 1:19-20

*My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.*

- Make a list of all the ways these verses say we are to handle offenses.

## The Perfect Example

1 Peter 2:21–23

*For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.*

Luke 23:34

*Then Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.**” And they divided his clothes and cast lots.*

- How did Jesus react to the horrible wrongs being done to Him?
- Describe a time when someone gave you grace when you deserved their vengeance.
- After reading these two passages, how has your perspective changed about dealing with the offenses of others?

Proverbs 20:22 (NLT)

*Don’t say, “I will get even for this wrong.”  
Wait for the Lord to handle the matter.*

- What does it say about our trust in God when we seek revenge on our own?

Proverbs 24:17-18

*Don’t gloat when your enemy falls,  
and don’t let your heart rejoice when he stumbles,  
or the Lord will see, be displeased,  
and turn his wrath away from him.*

- Does God love your enemy as much as He loves you? Define enemy.
- What is the cause and effect laid out in this passage?

## Proverbs 25:21–22

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.  
If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
For in so doing  
you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.*

## Romans 12:16-21

*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. But*

*If your enemy is hungry, feed him.  
If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
For in so doing  
you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.*

*Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.*

- Make a list of our responsibilities within our relationships. (List all the verbs!)

## Galatians 5:22-23

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.*

- Soldiers train so they are prepared perform under pressure. What spiritual disciplines can help us develop this fruit in our lives so this is how we react in difficult situations?

## Next Steps

- If someone has hurt you, let them know it in a way that promotes reconciliation- Matthew
- Seek an apology- Romans 12:18
- Respond with kindness- Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Sometimes it's hard to wait on God's justice- forgiving is not natural or easy.

- Check out Psalm 94 to see King David struggling with waiting for God's vengeance.
- Read Psalm 37 to see the promise of what will happen when we follow God's plan for us.