


Held Hostage by Revenge Fantasies

Free Yourself to Love: Chapter 7

ICON KEY

 Question/Discuss

 Read The Bible

 Read FYTL

 Watch the Video



Download and Watch DVD Clip #5 With This Lesson



Revenge is our desire for justice, our desire to make offenders pay for their relational crimes against us. p. 114



Rom. 12:9; Deut. 32:35; Rev. 6:9-11; Prov. 24:29



Revenge is a dangerous boomerang that eventually harms the one who perpetrates the vengeful behavior. p. 116



Prov. 13:21 NLT



Can you think of a situation where revenge harmed you more than the one it was intended for? Is revenge a dangerous boomerang?



Exposing creative revenge—leave room for God’s wrath (illus: one of Jackie’s angriest moments) pp. 116-118



Rom. 12:19-21; Luke 6:28




Think about the creative forms of revenge people commonly use: gossip, slander, sarcasm, headaches. When have you seen a loved one use one of these forms? When have you used one?



 **Revenge is often about Ancient Hostility. p. 120**



Ez. 25:12-16

 **My desire to harm my offender, actually grieves the Holy Spirit. p.120**




Eph.4:30, 31

 **Nurse a Grudge, Cause a Beheading. p. 121**




Mark 6:19, 20

 **Popular Forms of Revenge: gossip, slander, “Scar-casm.” p. 123**



Prov. 11:13; 20:19

 **A mother’s cruel revenge: Ernest Hemingway’s story. p. 124**

 **Revenge is ugly graffiti all over the grace of God...in the beginning—
grace. p. 124**

[Q] *Does making the offender “pay a little” seem fair to you? Do you make people “squirm” and only then consider forgiving them?*

[Q] *What emotional battles have you engaged in this year that were fueled by revenge?*

[Q] *Is it hard for you even to consider the presence of malice in your heart toward other people? Why?*

 **Forgiveness is the Best Revenge: God will make it up to you, with blessings in proportion to former misery. p. 126**



Isaiah 40:10; 61:7; Ps. 90:15 NLT



 God Has Not Forgotten What the Offender Did. His timing is perfect—
“wait a little longer.” p. 127



Rev. 6:9-11

[Q] *Have you ever been impatient with God’s avenging your heartbreak? How did you handle it (or how are you handling it)?*


 Refuse to Join the Vigilante Gang—vengeance offers short-lived satisfaction but a long-term staggering burden. p. 131



1 Sam. 25:14-31


 Abigail (The Father’s Joy) blocked a gang of vigilantes even when married to a FOOL. pp. 132-133


[Q] *Have you ever seen an Abigail at work? What did she do? How can you be an Abigail in a conflict you’re aware of?*

 Frisk one’s thoughts for seemingly innocent forms of revenge, “Do not gloat when your enemy falls...” pp. 136-137



Prov. 24:17; Job 31:29-30

 Forgiveness Rather than Revenge in a Siberian Concentration Camp—must read! pp. 137-38

 We all have a “Saul” in our lives—only forgiveness will allow us to respond properly. Forgiving freely will produce better souls in us! p. 138



1Sam. 24:5,6,17

[Q] *Does praying for the one who has slandered you seem preposterous? Why would Jesus ask us to do such a thing?*

