



IronWorks: "So True"

10/13 & 18, 2017

Teacher: Roger Thompson

"Getting Even"

You have heard it said: "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

A culture of anger and retaliation

IS THIS REALLY TRUE?

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ **But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matt. 5:43-47

The slide toward vengeance:

Hurt: _____

Unforgiveness: _____

Anger: _____

Bitterness: _____

Slander: _____

Resentment: _____

Hatred: _____

Vengeance: _____



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UNFORGIVERS INEVITABLY SLIDE TOWARD VENGEANCE!

- 1) The Goal:** love your enemies
- 2) The Means:** pray for your persecutors
- 3) The Positive Incentive:** live as a son
- 4) The Negative Incentive:** show how grace makes all the difference

ONLY THE FORGIVEN FORGIVE

Questions for discussion:

1. What repeated messages, hurtful experiences, or important people in my life have programmed me to seek vengeance?
2. How have I experienced forgiveness from another person and/or from God? What did that feel like?
3. Privately: who do I need to forgive and stop seeking vengeance against? _____
4. Pray for each man: “Lord, help _____ to love and forgive as he has been loved and forgiven by you.”

For deeper understanding read
The Freedom Factor, by Bruce Wilkinson

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