



Power Play :: Andy Stanley

INTRODUCTION

We're all familiar with the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Unfortunately, most of us interpret this as "Do unto others as they have done unto me." This reaction comes naturally to most of us, as it seems right and fair to pay people back for offenses they've committed against us. Revenge makes sense, if all there is to life is what we see in front of us. But if there is more to this life than this, then getting even with someone else doesn't help us to get ahead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time when you were paid evil for good. How did you want to respond? How did you respond? How did the situation work out?
2. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-22. How did Nabal treat David? How did David react?
3. Read 1 Samuel 25:23-39. How did Abigail treat David? How did David react?
4. Has anyone ever paid you good for evil? How did it change your view of them?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:9. Why should we, as Christians, strive to repay evil with good?
6. Read Matthew 5:44-45. How did Jesus model this principle?

THINK ABOUT IT

Is there currently a situation in which you are not being treated fairly? What is the story you would like to tell someday about this incident? Perhaps "I got even! I looked for an opportunity and took 'em down," comes to mind. Do you prefer to have a different story to tell?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What would it look like to return good for evil? Or, in Peter's words, to bless the person who offended you? What would it look like to give more than simply a neutral response, but a positive one?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9