

VENGEANCE

VENGEANCE Part 2: Life or Death

INTRODUCTION

When someone hurts us, we go to war. Maybe we respond with the silent treatment. Maybe we dismiss the person from our life. But what if evening the score isn't our job? What if our weapons of vengeance can never make things right the way God can? In this message, John Woodall gives us a healthy way to react when we're hurt and tempted to get revenge ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to John's story about his rocky conversations and email exchanges with his friend? Explain.
2. In the message, John says that God gives us permission to wrestle with our hurt—to be angry with the person who hurt us as well as with God. How does that change the way you will work through hurt in the future?
3. Has there been a time that you responded to hurt based on good advice? How did the advice differ from your instinctive response?
4. Talk about a time when you responded to hurt based on bad or no advice.
5. Read Titus 2:11-14. Had you ever thought about the idea that Christ's death paid the price for the hurt done to you? How does that change your view of people who have hurt you?
6. Is there hurt in your past that could cause you to someday look back on your life with regret? If so, what first step can you take to surrender vengeance to God?

MOVING FORWARD

The path of personal vengeance leads to isolation and fragmentation—death. Surrendering vengeance to God leads to peace and freedom—life. And the truth is, God has already paid back all wrongs through the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus Christ. The war is over.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 11:2