

“OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD”

INTRODUCTION

A. Romans 12:17-21

To the extent it depends on us and not the other guy, we must beat peace with others. To make peace, we should avoid vengeance.

B. 1st Peter 3:8-9

Instead of vengeance, we should bless our opponents.

I. JOSEPH BLESSED HIS BROTHERS

A. Genesis 37:18-34

His brethren treated Joseph with evil.

B. Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Joseph, however, returned their evil with good.

II. AN ISRAELITE CAPTIVE BLESSED HER MASTER

A. 2nd Kings 5:1-14

This unnamed maiden in Syria could have been bitter toward her captors, resenting the fact that she had become a slave, but instead she chose to lead her master to God’s prophet, where he could be healed.

B. Ephesians 6:5-8; 1st Peter 2:18-23

The girl understood this principle well.

III. DAVID SPARED SAUL

A. 1st Samuel 18:5-11, 29

After defeating the giant Philistine Goliath, David was loved and accepted by Saul, but when David was praised more highly than the king, Saul became jealous and sought to kill the young man. Thereafter, Saul continued to treat David as an enemy.

B. 1st Samuel 24:1-19; 26:1-25

On more than one occasion, opportunity was provided David to slay the king who sought his life, but David refused to kill the Lord's anointed.

IV. STEPHEN INTERCEDED FOR HIS MURDERERS

A. Acts 6:8-14; 7:54-59

Stephen was falsely accused of blasphemy, then stoned to death by those whom he had tried to teach the gospel to.

B. Acts 7:60

With his dying breath, though, Stephen asked the Lord not to charge his murderers with their sin.

V. CHRIST PRAYED AND DIED FOR HIS ENEMIES

A. Matthew 27:27-44

Jesus suffered terribly at the hands of Roman soldiers to whom he had been delivered by his countrymen.

B. Luke 23:34

Knowing they were ignorant of what they were doing, Christ asked the Father to forgive them.

C. Romans 5:6-10

His desire for forgiveness extended to all.

VI. PAUL CONVERTED THE JAILER

A. Acts 16:20-24

The jailer secured Paul and Silas in stocks deep in the prison after they had been beaten with rods.

B. Acts 16:25-34

Yet, they were willing to prevent his suicide and teach him the gospel!

CONCLUSION

A. Matthew 5:38-48

Considering all the examples we have to observe, we can manage to overcome evil with good; we can bless our enemies and do good to those who hate us.

B. Before any of this is relevant, however, we must overcome evil by being forgiven of our own sins.