

Discipleship Group Weekly Resources

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16 Passage: Proverbs 20:22; 24:17-18; 25:21-22

Big Thought:

One of the greatest lines in movie history comes from the film *The Princess Bride*. The character is Inigo Montoya and he says, "Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die!" We loved watching the movie and seeing Montoya get revenge on the man who killed his father. He finally gets to say the line that he has been repeating to himself his whole life.

There is something within us that loves a "get even" story. Maybe it's because injustice angers us. Whether it is literary characters who pay back everyone who has ever wronged them, TV shows that where the nerds get revenge, or even songs that revel in settling old hurts, it seems to hit a responsive chord in our hearts.

Maybe the resonance occurs because we all know the experience of being wronged or seeing a loved one wronged. Our hearts long for justice to be served because we are made in God's image. However, we are not the ones to exact that justice, because that job belongs to God alone. We become wrathful when we don't trust the wrath of God to make things right.

A wrathful heart is revealed in many ways---a cold silence, a manipulative anger, a sick imagination to bring harm upon someone, or a stubbornness against forgiveness. Even when we don't act on our thoughts, it is still sin. Proverbs 20:22 says, "Don't say, 'I will avenge this evil! Wait on The LORD, and He will rescue you.'" READ PROVERBS 24:17-18. Jesus, the Wisdom of God, commands us to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, turn the other cheek and not to revile. Jesus models for us what it looks like to trust the ability of God to even all scores.

The Bible warns us against self-produced justice. Romans 12:19 says, "Vengeance is mine." No timetable is given and there is no statute of limitations on God's justice. Regardless of how long it takes, God will set things right in the end. He will do a much better job at it than we ever could. He won't need our help. But in

the meantime, we do good to those who hurt us and trust Him who loves us (1 Peter 2:18-25).

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of your favorite revenge stories? Real, fiction or personal.
2. According to Proverbs 24:17-18, how does The LORD feel when we rejoice over our enemies' failures?
3. How did Jesus endure the injustice of the cross? How does his example inform us about our example?
4. What are some practical ways you can apply this lesson?

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