**Live Different; Live Free**

**Freed From Getting Even**

**Matthew 22:36-40** “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**Romans 12:17-21** “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

* **The love of God is focused on redemption NOT revenge.**

**When is it ok for me to get even with someone?**

**Matthew 5:38-42**

1. **When someone offends me?**

**1 Samuel 24:13b, 15, 17**

1. **When someone accuses me?**

**Ephesians 3:14-19** “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

1. **When someone overpowers me?**

**Romans 5:8, 10-11** “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. … 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

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**Acts 4:29-31** “And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, **30** while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” **31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

**Further study:** Ephesians 3:14-19, Acts 4:29-31, Romans 5:8-11; 12:19-21, Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:21, Deuteronomy 19:19, Proverbs 25:22

**Questions to discuss:**

How do you need freedom from needing to get even with someone?

What part of Jesus’ teaching or Scripture spoke to you today?