

Transformed Thinking About “Payback”: Be Transformed Part 4

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Speaker: Ps Ken Young

Intro: Everyone understands the concept of the world, “If you do me wrong, I will do you wrong back.” It’s ingrained in us, part of our sin nature. But Jesus calls us to a different standard once again. We are not to pattern ourselves after the pattern of the world. We are to use a different pattern – the Word of God. What does God have to say to us about how a transformed mind views something like paying back others for the wrong they have done to us. It goes against sin nature, but it is in keeping with our new nature as children of God.

Romans 12:17-21 *“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

1. The Problem with “Payback”

- Payback is a never-ending cycle
- Payback shows a lack of trust in God – Proverbs 20:22
- Desire for “payback” shows a lack of true regeneration – Ephesians 4:31-32

2. How We Overcome Evil with Good

- a. Let God be God
- b. Be aware that evil is always expecting to be repaid with evil
- c. Be aware that sometimes evil can react to kindness with scorn – Romans 12:18, 20
- d. Live at Peace – Romans 12:18; I Peter 2:21-24

Questions:

1. Has there been times in your life where you have been truly hurt by someone seeking to do you harm? How might you have handled it poorly? How might you have handled it well and in a godly manner?
2. How would you describe heaping “coals of fire” on someone’s head? As followers of Christ, what are the implications of this?
3. *Read I Peter 2:21-24.* How did Jesus retaliate when He was insulted, ridiculed, and scorned? How are we to follow His example? As God places someone in your heart that you have struggled with, commit that person to the Lord, praying they would

come to also know the blessings of Christ, His forgiveness and pray for God's blessings to be upon them.

Prayer: *“Father, thank you for the example we see in Jesus, that, although He was wronged many times, although He was lied about, abused and accused, even He committed all judgment to the Father who judges righteously. Even on the cross, His prayer was for his accusers, “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they’re doing!” May I respond to those who seek me harm in His way. Help me to be an instigator of peace wherever I go. In Jesus’ name, amen!”*