

- Answer Q3: What would it look like for me to return good for evil?**
- Choose to Be Like Our Father in Heaven.**
- Join Us Next Week for Part 4: Become an Inspiring Leader.**



Revenge! Don't Settle for Even
1 Samuel 25; 2-42; 1 Peter 3:9-11; Matthew 5:43-44
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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The Bottom Line: Don't settle for even. Return good for evil.

Introduction:

Do we get what we deserve?

I don't want to get what I ... deserve.
 BUT ... I do want other people to ... get what they deserve.

I don't want to live in a world without consequences, and I don't want to live in a world without mercy.

Last week, we left off with innocent people getting what nobody deserved and our hero feeling responsible, which makes me think about the Golden Rule:

Golden Rule: Do unto **others** as you would have **them**

This is great until somebody mistreats you. Then it's: Do unto others as **others have** done unto you. This is only natural, right?

When we feel powerless in one relationship/environment, we compensate in another. I'll take it out on you because I can't take it out on ... Then, it's: Do unto **others** as **someone else** has done **unto you**.

The problem with **getting even is that it just makes you even ...**

Part 3 of our study of *A Man After God's Heart* takes place around 1000 B.C. Today's story happens during David's eight fugitive years. He's living off the land with his merry band of men ... all of which are outlaws.

He almost makes a terrible mistake, but he's saved by a woman.

The Story: 1 Samuel 25:2-42

<u>Nabal</u>	<u>David</u>	<u>Abigail</u>
Evil for good.	Evil for evil.	Good for evil.
Foolish	Predictable	Remarkable

Peter, who saw Jesus

unjustly crucified, wrote to **persecuted** Christians:

1 Peter 3:9-11, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with **blessing**, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a **blessing**. For, 'Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from **evil** and his lips from deceitful speech. He must **turn from evil** and **do good**; he must seek **peace** and pursue it.'"

Where did Peter get such a crazy idea? From Jesus ...

Matthew 5:43-44, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and **hate** your enemy.' But I tell you: **Love** your enemies, [**bless** those who curse you, **do good** to those who hate you] and **pray** for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

Three questions:

Question #1: Do I really want to be **even** with someone I don't **even** like?

Even is easy! Wouldn't it be better to be ahead? You pull ahead by refusing to get even.

Question #2: What **story** do I want to tell when this event is just a story to tell?

Question #3: What would it look like for me to return **good** for **evil**?

Not just do nothing. That's mercy. But actually do something. That's grace.

Conclusion:

Christians: This is our best opportunity to be like our Father in heaven.

It's how our story intersects with the greatest story ever told: God returning good for evil ... His Son for our sin.

This takes you from predictable to **remarkable!**

It will set you free. It will set you apart. Don't settle for even. Even is easy.

Don't write a **predictable** story. Make it **remarkable**.

Do for others precisely what they don't deserve for you to do just like your Father in heaven did.

NEXT STEPS:

Memorize: Matthew 5:44

Answer Q1: Do I really want to be even with someone I don't even like?

Answer Q2: What story do I want to tell?