

They Rewarded Evil for Good

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Psalm 109:5 And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

2 Samuel 10:1-7 And it came to pass after this, that the king of the children of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his stead. Then said David, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me. And David sent to comfort him by the hand of his servants for his father. And David's servants came into the land of the children of Ammon. And the princes of the children of Ammon said unto Hanun their lord, Thinkest thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it? Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away. When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return. And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men. And when David heard of it, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.

- I. David only had in his heart to do kindness to this man.
 - A. There was no double motive here in which David had some personal gain or interest.
 - B. These were people who were banned from the congregation of Israel for 10 generations.

Deuteronomy 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

- C. This man who had showed kindness to David had not been such a nice guy before, either.

1 Samuel 11:2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel.

- 1. This was one of the very few times that Saul acted like a king and he went to war with them and defeated them soundly.
 - 2. After that is when this man showed kindness to David.
 - 3. It wasn't because he was a good man, but because he was much more afraid of David than he was of Saul.
 - D. Nevertheless, despite all this, David wanted to assure this man's son that he had no ill intentions or feelings and that the friendly relations between their nations would continue, as far as he was concerned.
 - E. It would have worked fine, had it not been for some evil-thinking sons of the devil there who had nothing in their hearts but hatred and suspicion for everyone else.
- II. There are many terrible things about sin, but one of the most ugly things about it is how it affects the way people think of others.

- A. Sin so perverts the mind that it cannot recognize kindness and goodness anymore.
- B. Sin gradually takes over the reins of the mind so that it only thinks evil of everyone else, and cannot see good in anyone.
- C. One of sin's evil powers is to convince the mind that all men are always evil.
- D. This is the way of sinners – ungodly, lost, spiritually blind souls.
- E. God's way and love are contrasted to this in the Word of God:

1 Corinthians 13:5 (Charity) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

- F. A mind that is under the dominion of sin will not be able to comprehend that there are actually people who do not think like he does.
- G. He is convinced that the whole world thinks just like he does.
- H. He is supremely selfish in everything he does, so he thinks everyone else is the same way.
- I. These people can always point to the hypocrites among God's people who really are just like him, and so in his mind it confirms that he is right in thinking that way.
- J. These are the people who cause all the evil in the world.
 - 1. They start wars between nations, between coworkers, between family members, and between church members.
- K. In this instance here they caused a war between nations that involved other nations, also, and it cost more than 40,000 lives and untold destruction of property.
 - 1. And it was all started when David only tried to show kindness to an old enemy of Israel.
- L. There was never a threat that Israel would take the land of the Ammonites because God had forbidden them to do so.

Deuteronomy 2:19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

- M. The Ammonites simply hated the Israelites for no just reason.
 - 1. The Ammonites were kin to the Israelites because they were the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew.
- N. If there was anything David did wrong here, it was simply to "meddle" with them – maybe he should have just not done anything when Nahash died.

III. So what is the lesson for us in this story from the life of David?

- A. Be knowledgeable and aware of how the minds of sinners work.
- B. Realize that sometimes your kindness will be interpreted as evil.
- C. If someone hates you, you need to be very careful about how you show kindness to them.
 - 1. David could have sent a personal letter instead of a delegation of men.
 - 2. Consider not only what the person you are trying to show kindness to will think, but what the most evil people around him might think and suggest to him.
- D. If it is a person who does not hate you, but has people around him who do hate you, it would be wise of you to consider how they will interpret your attempt to show kindness.
- E. Kindness will be much better received if it is done in a private manner and not in a public manner.

1. It takes away the suspicion that you are doing it for the eyes of others and have motives that are really pure.
- F. Sometimes it would be better just not to meddle with people who have avowed themselves as your enemy.
1. Unless the opportunity meets you in the face, you would usually be better off to just avoid them and not “meddle” with them at all.
 2. You will have a much better chance of changing their hatred toward you by just doing right and living right and leaving them alone.

Romans 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

3. Sometimes the only way to live peaceably with someone is to stay away from them.
- G. If we do not heed the wisdom in these words we may find ourselves in the position of having to defend the honor of someone else at a great cost.
1. David did not fight or resist those who cursed him and hated him.
 2. But he could not be right and not defend the men he had sent who have been so mistreated and shamed.
- H. So we should show kindness to others, but we need to be wise in doing so.
1. Because in our benevolent desire we may cause more damage and destruction and our kindness may be turned to death for others.