

Overcoming Difficulties

Part 2 - Dealing with Difficult People/Unfair Treatment from People

I.) OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

- (a) OUR RESPONSIBILITY - **Read Matthew 5:44-48, Luke 6:27-37**. The Lord says to:
 - 1.) LOVE YOUR ENEMIES - **I Cor. 13:4-8** describes what that love should be like. **Romans 5:5** tells us God has given us that love through the Holy Spirit Who lives in us. See also **Ephesians 4:30-32**.
 - 2.) BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU - Blessing someone means how we speak of them (this involves your mouth!). The Greek word for "bless" here means to "speak well of". Read **James 3:9-10, Eph. 4:29-32, Romans 12:14**.
 - 3.) DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU - This involves our actions (the Greek word means "deal honestly"). "And just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way." **Luke 6:31**. Also read **Romans 12:17-21**.
 - 4.) PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU - Pray especially for their salvation. See **I Timothy 2:1-4 and II Timothy 2:24-26**.
- (b) MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT AT FAULT IN CAUSING THE SITUATION: Read **I Peter 2:12-22; I Peter 4:12-16; II Cor. 8:21; Romans 12:11; Romans 13:1-8; Phil. 2:14-15; James 3:13-18**; If you find that you have neglected to do these things, and are in violation of God's commands, REPENT, and use **I John 1:9**. If appropriate, you may need to HUMBLY ASK FORGIVENESS of someone (especially if it is a person in AUTHORITY over you in this situation - see **Romans 13:1-8, Matt. 5:23-25**).
- (c) TRUST GOD FOR THE OUTCOME - REMEMBER THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS: **Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 37:4-5, 7a & 8b; Romans 8:28** tell us God will take care of us if we put our lives completely in His control. We should have the attitude that we don't even have any "rights" (see **Phil. 2:3-8; Romans 12:16-21; Matt. 5:5, 11, 12; I Peter 2:18-20**). Also, see Part II below.
- (d) GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS PRAISING GOD CONTINUALLY & DOING ALL THINGS AS UNTO THE LORD: **Col. 3:17 & 23; Phil. 2:14-15; I Cor. 10:31; I Thess. 5:16-18; Eph. 5:20; I Peter 4:13**.

II.) GOD'S RESPONSIBILITY WHEN WE ARE TREATED UNFAIRLY: GOD WILL DEFEND & PROTECT HIS PEOPLE

- **Romans 12:19** "Never take your own revenge, Beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I WILL REPAY,' says the Lord'."
- **Isaiah 54:15b, 17** "...whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. THIS IS THE HERITAGE OF THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD, and 'their righteousness is of Me', saith the Lord."
- **Hebrews 13:5-6** "...He Himself has said, 'I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU, NOR FORSAKE YOU', so that we may boldly say, 'THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME.'"
- **Psalm 37:39-40** "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And THE LORD SHALL HELP THEM, AND DELIVER THEM; HE SHALL DELIVER THEM FROM THE WICKED, AND SAVE THEM, BECAUSE THEY TRUST IN HIM."
- **Romans 8:31** "What shall we then say to these things? IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?"

- **II Chronicles 32:7-8** "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid or dismayed because...of all the multitude which is with him (the enemy), for the One with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh (merely human resources); BUT WITH US IS THE LORD OUR GOD TO HELP US, AND TO FIGHT OUR BATTLES."
- **Read II Chronicles 20:12-23** (partial) "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but OUR EYES ARE ON YOU.....Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD'S. You shall not need to fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf.... Do not fear or be dismayed....go out to face them, for the Lord is with you."
This is what happened - "...he appointed singers unto the Lord, that they should praise the beauty of His holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, 'Praise the Lord! for His mercy endures forever.'....And when they began to sing and to praise the Lord, THE LORD SET AMBUSHES AGAINST (the enemy), and they (the different enemies) HELPED TO DESTROY ONE ANOTHER."
- **I John 4:4** "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."
- **Read Psalm 5:8-10** (partial) "O Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness because of my foes; make Thy way straight before me. There is nothing reliable in what they say.....by their own devices let them fall."
- **Exodus 14:13-14** "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. The Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.'"
- **I Samuel 17:47** "Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."
- Also, read **Romans 12:17-21; Psalm 91; John 16:33; I John 5:4-5; James Chapter 3; Prov. 16:7; Prov. 15:1-3; Rom. 8:31-39**