

Made Through Persecution

Part three of the series, "Made for Greatness: After God's Heart"

Sunday, October 16, 2022 | Pastor Billy Lile

Seasons of mistreatment and injustice will happen to us all. How we respond is what matters. (1 Samuel 18:6-12 NIV)

When we are mistreated, we must respond in a way that honors the Lord because it is He who brings justice. (1 Samuel 24:3-13, 26:9-12 NIV)

"As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed."

(1 Samuel 26:10-11 NIV)

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:19-21 NIV)

When we trust in the Lord to bring justice, we don't retaliate but instead do good—even to those who mistreat us.

"On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

(Romans 12:20-21 NIV)

We must forgive just as the Lord forgave us.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Colossians 3:12-14 NIV)

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