

Group Leader Guide-Feb 2 2025

Sermon Recap

Deuteronomy 32:4; Isaiah 30:18; Romans 12:17-21; Romans 12:1; Matthew 5:43-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; Matthew 5:16; Romans 12:18-19; 1 Peter 2:20-24; Romans 5:5, 8, 10

Pastor Alex discusses the theme of justice and revenge in his sermon, emphasizing that Christians are called to respond to wrongdoing with mercy rather than retaliation. He references Romans 12, highlighting the importance of living peaceably with everyone and the need to reflect Christ's character in our actions. Pastor Alex shares personal anecdotes and historical examples to illustrate how practicing kindness and forgiveness can lead to transformation in both ourselves and others. Ultimately, he invites the congregation to approach God for renewal and to remember the grace shown to us through Christ's sacrifice as we partake in communion.

Quotes

"To 'live peaceably,' is descriptive of that state, in which a man does not disturb others, and is not disturbed by them. The first is always in our own power, the second is not" - John Brown: *Analytical Exposition of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans*

"Retaliation, revenge, an eye for eye mentality is not the way of Jesus nor the way of His people. Jesus' way is "I give my life so you can live, I die so you don't have to, I take on the wrath so you don't, I'll shoulder the weight of Hell so you won't have to bear it..." - Pastor Alex

Discussion Questions

What does the phrase 'don't repay evil for evil' mean in the context of relationships and interactions with others?

- This phrase is derived from Romans 12:17, where Paul instructs believers not to seek revenge but to choose a different path reflecting Christ's character.
- Can you think of a situation in your life where you felt wronged? How might you have responded differently by choosing to do good instead of seeking revenge?

Why is it important to consider our actions and responses when we feel wronged by someone?

- Pastor Alex discussed how the natural inclination of humanity is to get even, but being renewed in Christ challenges us to think differently and act differently.

- Reflect on a time when your actions had a positive impact on a relationship. How can that guide you in dealing with conflicts moving forward?

What does it mean to live peaceably with all, as mentioned in Romans 12:18?

- In the sermon, Pastor Alex emphasizes the idea that living peaceably sometimes depends on our actions and willingness to pursue peace in difficult situations.
- Think about your own relationships—how can you actively contribute to creating peace, especially with those who may not be easy to get along with?

How does the story of Reaksa Him illustrate the power of forgiveness and kindness over seeking revenge?

- Pastor Alex shared Reaksa Him's compelling story of overcoming a desire for vengeance when he chose to forgive those who wronged him during the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.
- In your life, have you ever had the opportunity to forgive someone who hurt you? What were the challenges, and how did it affect you afterward?

What role does trusting God's justice play in our ability to forgive others and let go of our desire for revenge?

- Pastor Alex discussed how God calls us to leave vengeance to Him, knowing that His justice is perfect and His timing is right.
- Can you recall a moment when you had to trust God instead of taking matters into your own hands? How did that experience shape your faith and perspective?

Prayer

- Ask God to help us remember to show kindness to those who wrong us this week.
- Pray for the strength to overcome our desire for revenge and instead choose to bless others.
- Seek guidance in how we can be peacemakers in our relationships.
- Share any specific prayer requests for this week.

Rewatch the sermon

[Feb 2 2025- Alex Dixon](#)