

29 December 2023

Grudge not one against another, brethren!

James 5:9: "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned."

I really don't have to define to you what a grudge is, but I will... In an OT passage that I will read in a moment, to grudge is to "keep or cherish anger in your heart" toward someone.

In James 5:9: To grudge is to murmur, groan, sigh, or to be irritated in your heart toward someone for something that they said or did to you.

When you keep these wicked thoughts within and you do nothing to cast them out of your mind, YOU ARE "holding a grudge".

When the devil finds a grudge in your mind toward someone, he will do all that he can to solidify THESE WICKED THOUGHTS within you and convince you that you are right to hold your grudge!

"Grudge not one against another, brethren" This is so very close to James 4:11: "Speak not evil one of another, brethren."

Do you remember recently when we spoke of "wrong thinking" holding a grudge against a brother, sister in Christ, or your friend or neighbor is completely WRONG THINKING, IT MUST NOT BE HOW YOU THINK child of God, it is sinful, ungodly, and un-Christlike!

I'm not saying that you won't struggle with resentment in your heart toward someone for something they said or did to you, but know this:

Christians don't hold grudges! The saddest word in (V9) is "BRETHREN". Oh, may this sin never be in us or among us as a church! James 4:1, Leviticus 19:16-18

James just taught us how to handle cruelty and oppression from the wicked in this life: James 5:7-8.

But we all know that PATIENCE under cruelty and oppression is NOT A NATURAL RESPONSE! But it is to be our response as children of God, for it is the response of faith in Christ! We MUST continue to look ABOVE all of our tribulations for the coming of our Lord, to encourage and comfort one another that the "coming of the Lord draweth nigh" That He will return for us!

But THEN here in (V9), James warns us against THIS SIN being entrenched in our hearts, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth at the door." 2 Peter 3:11-14

But I am saved by the blood of Christ! I have been forgiven for all my sins! I have the righteousness of Christ!

If these precious truths are true of you, and you are TRULY WAITING for your Lord's return.....you will cast off hatred, vengeance, and any grudges that you are holding within your heart toward ANY!

Think back to that passage: Leviticus 19:18: "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD".

When you hold onto a grudge in your heart against someone, you're holding onto anger and hatred toward them, and if you don't repent of it, it will lead you to a spirit of anger and vengeance! THIS is NOT the spirit of a Christian! Romans 12:12, 17-21

BUT they have offended me, they sinned against me, I don't like the way they treated me! Matthew 6:12: "Forgive us our debts, AS WE FORGIVE our debtors".

Luke 11:4: "And forgive us our sins; FOR WE ALSO FORGIVE EVERY ONE that is indebted to us."

But you don't understand how often they've done things to me!

Matthew 18:21-22: "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but until seventy times seven."

Matthew 6:14-15: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses".

If you have a grudge in your heart RIGHT NOW against someone, HOW can you pray in faith and ask God..... "Father, forgive me for my sins" ... when you refuse to forgive those that have sinned against you?"

James 5:9: "BEHOLD, the Judge standeth at the door."

Leave all your grudges behind, brethren... look intently and with the holy desire to emulate the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our Great Example:

1 Peter 2:21-23

Why did you not cast this burden upon me, commit this offense and sin to me, for me to handle, why did you not have me to plead your cause for you? And why did you not lovingly plead for the one that offended you?

Galatians 5:14-15: "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor AS THYSELF. But if ye BITE and DEVOUR one another, take heed that ye be not CONSUMED or DESTROYED one of another." Sheep acting the part of ravenous wolves!

James 5:9