Revenge: Another Root of All Kinds of Evil

* Think about anyone’s motivation for doing evil—whether a fictional villain or when you’ve chosen to sin…
  + 1 Jn. 2:15-16 – evil desire for things of flesh, covetousness, vain craving for honor & attention
  + Those 3 types of sin boil down to selfishness, greed, and revenge.
  + Often, the most successful, compelling villains in fiction are the ones we can relate to and empathize with their heel turn and motivation.
    - Michael Corleone
    - Inigo Montoya
  + We understand revenge because we’ve all been wronged at some time, and everyone wants justice.
* Biblical examples of Personal Revenge
  + Lamech – Gen. 4:23-24
  + Simeon & Levi – Gen. 34:25; 49:5-7
  + James & John – Lk. 9:52-56
* Revenge may be a “dish best served cold,” but it’s not for the Christian.
  + “Served cold” implies a cooling off period, action not done in heat of passion. It’s premeditated, which carries stiffer penalties in our legal system.
  + Heb. 10:30 – “Vengeance is Mine. I will repay,” says the Lord.
  + Mt. 5:38-45 – Turn the other cheek
* Application: Don’t seek personal revenge in…
  + Marriage – Col. 3:18-19
  + Family – Col. 3:20-21
  + Job – Col. 3:22—4:1
  + Church – 1 Cor. 12:23-26
* Instead of revenge…
  + Rom. 12:17 – Take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
  + Rom. 12:18 – Live peaceably with all.
  + Rom. 12:21 – Overcome evil with good.
  + 1 Ths. 5:15 – Always seek to do good to one another and to all.
  + 1 Pet. 3:9 – Repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.
* Forgiveness
  + Personal vengeance is not sweet—it’s sin that is connected to other sins (lack of love, gossip, slander, hatred, jealousy, murder, etc.).
  + Jesus demonstrated opposite of revenge.
    - Lk. 22:49-51, Jn. 18:10-11 – Healed Malchus’ ear
    - Lk. 23:34 – “Forgive them.”