

Eight Ways To Spring Clean Your Life Part 2

Clean Out Revenge And Replace It With Forgiveness

1. Jesus warned against revenge. (Matt. 5:38-48).

Matt 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'

Matt 5:39 "But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matt 5:40 "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

Matt 5:41 "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

Matt 5:42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Matt 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Matt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matt 5:45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on {the} evil and {the} good, and sends rain on {the} righteous and {the} unrighteous.

Matt 5:46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Matt 5:47 "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing {than others?} Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matt 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

2. The meaning of "eye for eye and tooth for tooth" is distorted by most in the world to mean revenge is right.

3. We need to rid ourselves of hate and revenge and replace these carnal things with forgiveness.

a. Jesus had every reason to hate and retaliate, but he did not.

b. He forgave. (Lk. 23:34).

Luke 23:34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

4. We must swallow our pride and feelings of hatred and replace them with forgiveness. (Matt. 6:14,15).

Matt 6:14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matt 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

5. Paul also taught we are to return good for evil. (Rom. 12:17-20).

Rom 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 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.

Rom 12:20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A

DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

Clean Out Complaining And Replace It With Praise

1. No one likes a complainer including God.
2. God hated the complaining of Israel who constantly complained.
3. Paul warned Christians against complaining like the Israelites. (1 Cor. 10:8-10).

1 Cor 10:8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

1 Cor 10:9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

1 Cor 10:10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

1 Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

- a. Despite the blessings of God, the Israelite constantly murmured and complained against God.
 - b. They counted their troubles rather than God's care for them.
 - c. Many were destroyed and lost because of their complaining, and we too can fall if we conduct ourselves in the same way.
4. Complaining is obnoxious because it shows ingratitude to God and others.
 5. Instead of complaining we need to fill our lives with praise and gratitude. (1 Thess. 5:18).
1 Thess 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
 6. The Hebrew writer penned these words of exhortation to do good and be thankful. (Heb. 13:15-16).
Heb 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.
Heb 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Clean Out Wicked Thoughts And Replace Them With Pure Thoughts

1. As mortals it is easy for us to have wicked thoughts of lust, hate, vengeance, jealousy, etc.
2. Society often promotes wicked thoughts by glorifying and promoting the things that lead to wicked and impure thoughts.
3. Jesus taught these things originate in the heart. (Matt. 15:18-19).

Matt 15:18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

Matt 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

4. Paul admonished us to dwell on pure things. (Phil. 4:8).

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever

is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

- a. It takes conscious effort to practice this verse.
- b. It may require many life changes.
- c. We must deliberately avoid certain things and deliberately pursue what is good.

Clean Out Gossip And Replace It With Encouragement

1. It is easy to fall into the trap of gossip, but this is hated by God and harmful to others.

2. People gossip for a number of reasons.

- a. Some gossip out of boredom and find excitement in spreading evil, true or false, about others.

1) Solomon spoke of the thrill of gossip. (Prov. 26:22).

Prov 26:22 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

2) Some find great delight and excitement in spreading evil things about others.

- b. Others gossip to fit in with others who delight in it.
- c. Others gossip out of revenges in violation of the clear teachings of Christ and the apostles.
- d. Some gossip out of meanness - love to hurt and destroy others.

3. Both Old and New Testaments warn against the evils of gossip.

Lev 19:16 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

Prov 11:13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

Prov 16:28 A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.

Prov 17:4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; {they are} gossips,

2 Cor 12:20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps {there will be} strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such {a word} as is good for edification according to the need {of the moment,} so that it will give grace to those who hear.

4. In our spring clean out we need to remove all gossip and replace it with kind words and deeds.

1) As Christians we should spread good about others rather than evil.

2) We need to constantly pray the prayer of David. (Psa. 19:14).

Ps 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

3) We should determine to practice the Golden Rule. (Matt. 7:12).

Matt 7:12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

4) No one wants others to gossip about his/her life, and the Golden Rule then demands and motivates us to treat others as we wish to be treated.

Conclusion.

1. May each of us clean out of our lives and have a good spring cleaning that continues all our days.

a. Pride, anger, things that keep us from using our time wisely, unbelief.

b. Revenge, complaining, wicked thoughts, gossip.

2. May each of us replace them with humility, self-control, things that make the world better, faith, forgiveness, praise, pure thoughts and words of encouragement.

3. We can do this through Christ. (Phil. 4:13).

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

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