

DAY 5

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN TO ME?

Joseph said to them... "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good."
—GENESIS 50:19-20

[Read chapter 3, stopping at the subheading "Is God in control?"]

ALL OFFENDED PEOPLE FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES: THOSE WHO have been genuinely mistreated, and those who think they have been mistreated but actually were not.

When you have been genuinely mistreated, do you have the right to be offended? Reflect for a few minutes on a time when someone hurt you intentionally. What was your response? Did you become offended at that person because of the hurt? Was that your normal response to offense?

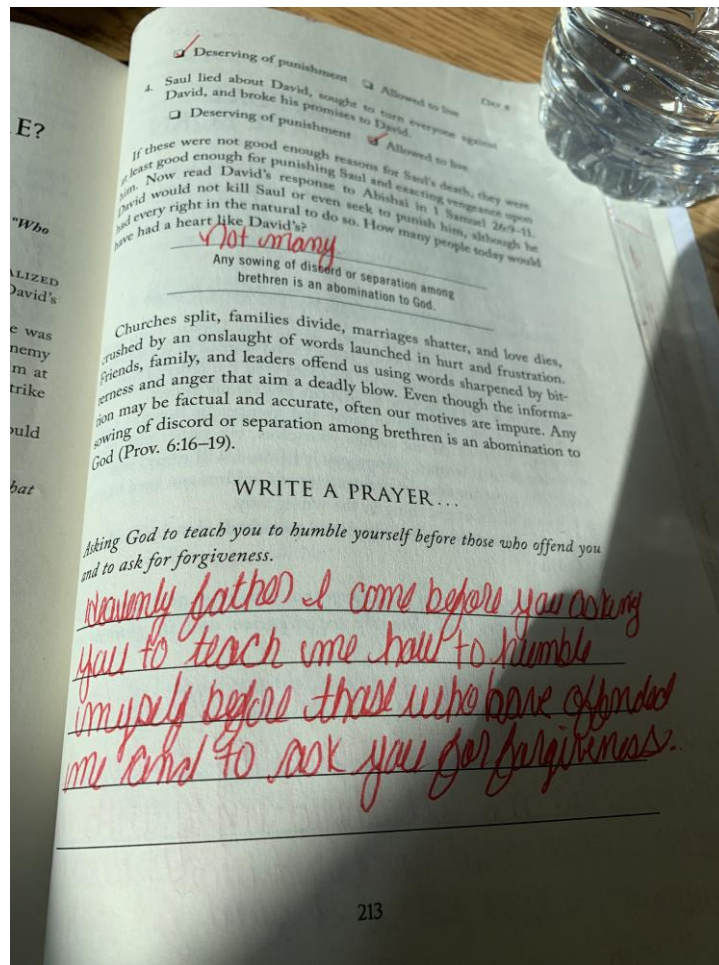
From the following list, rank your normal responses to offense from 1 (most likely response) to 5 (least likely response):

- I get mad.
- I immediately forgive.
- I get even.
- I work hard at forgiving the person.
- I get away from the person.
- I seek to be reconciled.

If the negative responses above are the ones you ranked the highest, then you actually feel you have the right to be offended when someone hurts you. But you do not have to respond that way.

Consider the story of Joseph. (Read Genesis 37-48.) How do you evaluate Joseph's words and actions?

Put an x on each line to indicate how Joseph responded.



- Deserving of punishment
- Allowed to lie
- Deserving of punishment
- Allowed to lie

If these were not good enough reasons for Saul's death, they were at least good enough for punishing Saul and exacting vengeance upon him. Now read David's response to Abishai in 1 Samuel 26:9-11. David would not kill Saul or even seek to punish him, although he had every right in the natural to do so. How many people today would have had a heart like David's?

Not viny

Any sowing of discord or separation among brethren is an abomination to God.

Churches split, families divide, marriages shatter, and love dies, crushed by an onslaught of words launched in hurt and frustration. Friends, family, and leaders offend us using words sharpened by bitterness and anger that aim a deadly blow. Even though the information may be factual and accurate, often our motives are impure. Any sowing of discord or separation among brethren is an abomination to God (Prov. 6:16-19).

WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking God to teach you to humble yourself before those who offend you and to ask for forgiveness.

mercifully father I come before you asking you to teach me how to humble myself before those who have offended me and to ask you for forgiveness.

WHO WILL AVENGE ME?

Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.
—ROMANS 12:19

[Read the remainder of chapter 4, beginning with the heading "Who Will Avenge Me?"]

SAUL ACKNOWLEDGED DAVID'S GOODNESS WHEN HE REALIZED that David could have killed him and did not. But one of David's men, Abishai, did not possess the grace that David possessed.

When David and Abishai slipped into Saul's camp while he was sleeping, Abishai pleaded with David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

Abishai had very good reasons for thinking that David should allow him to kill Saul.

Look over the following list. Check ✓ whether or not you believe that Saul should have received the death penalty for such a crime.

1. Saul had murdered eighty-five innocent priests and their families (multiple counts of first-degree murder).
 Deserving of death Allowed to live
2. Saul, along with three thousand men, attempted in every possible way to kill David and his men (multiple counts of attempted murder).
 Deserving of death Allowed to live
3. Saul continued to function as king even when the anointing to rule had been taken from him and given to David.

Now complete these sentences:

David treated Saul with non allegiance

Instead of revenge, David forgave + should do it

When rejected by his king, mentor, and father figure, David chose not to take up an offense. But Saul became jealous and suspicious of his servant David. Today many leaders have become suspicious of individuals under their authority. Like Saul, they are insecure in their calling, and that breeds jealousy and pride. They recognize godly qualities in other people, but they are willing to use such people in ministry only as long as it benefits them. Saul enjoyed the success of David until he saw David's success as a threat to him. Then he demoted David and watched for a reason to destroy him.

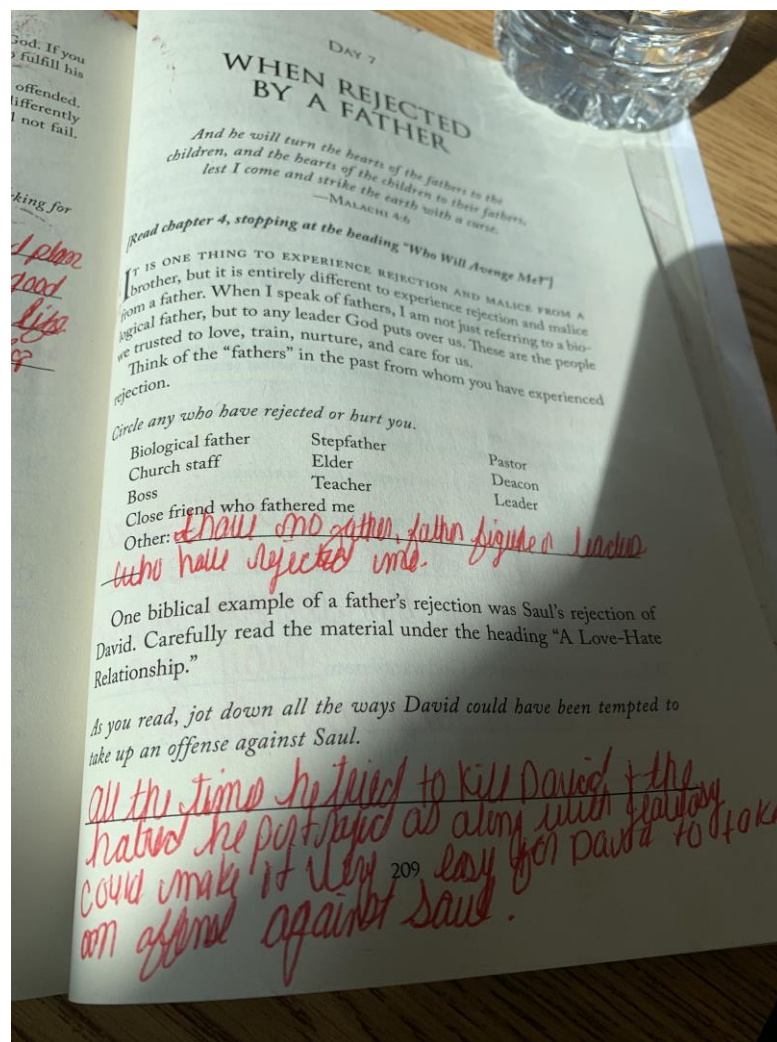
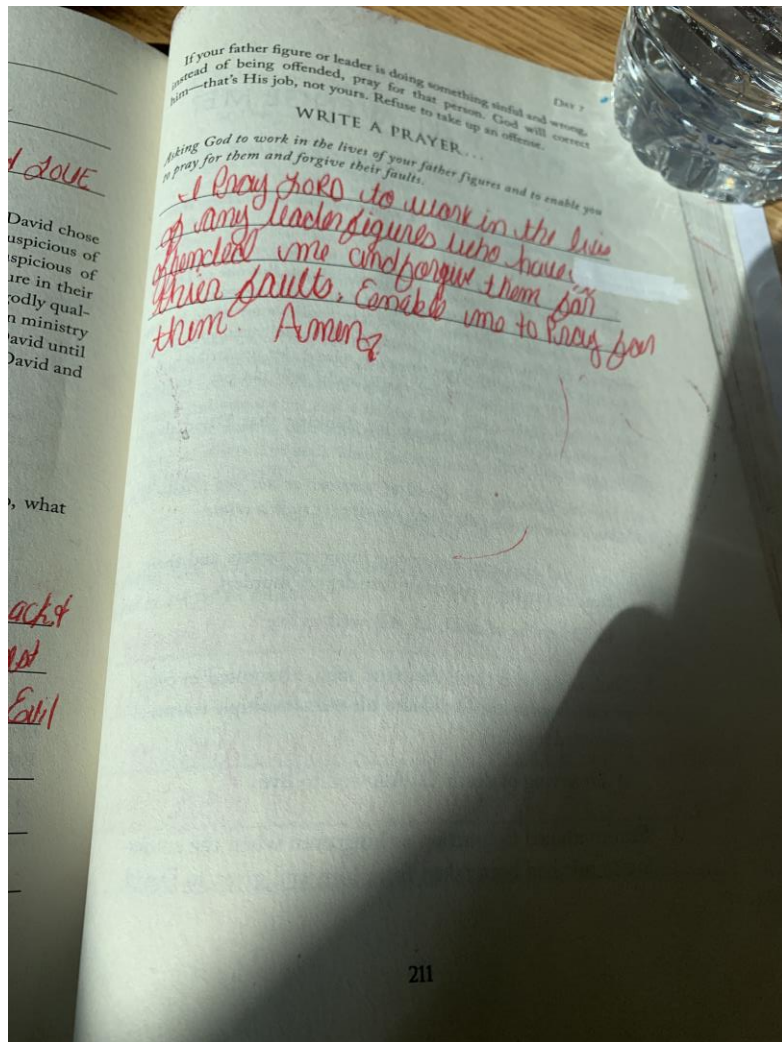
If your father figure or leader is doing something sinful and wrong, instead of being offended, pray for that person.

Is there a father in your life who is suspicious of you? If so, what response does God require of you? NO

Read 1 Samuel 24:11 and then complete these sentences:

When someone attacks me, God wants me to not attack back & to not have evil or rebellion against them - Pray for them. Dont return evil for evil

When someone rejects me, God wants me to Pray for them and to take no offense.



God sent Joseph to Egypt
(Gen. 45:5)
God sent Joseph to Egypt
(Gen. 45:7)
God sent Joseph to Egypt
(Gen. 45:8)
God sent Joseph to Egypt
(Ps. 105:16-17)

prison life
prison ministry
to land down as he was
sold as a slave

Think of the greatest problem you have faced in the last year. Describe it in one sentence.

Disorganization + clutter + cluttered mind with no direction

Now complete these sentences:

My response to my problem was I prayed to God +

I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to guide me
God's plan was to declutter and organize

so he could open the next door for me

What I learned about myself was I can do it through
Jesus Christ who strengthens me

- Deserving of punishment Allowed to live
- 4. Saul lied about David, sought to turn everyone against David, and broke his promises to David.
 - Deserving of punishment Allowed to live

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Not many.

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THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

6. Read Isaiah 55:12. Am I willing to leave in peace?
 Yes No

WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking Jesus to be your perfect Shepherd and to fill you with His love for the human shepherds He has placed in your life.

Dear my father I ask that you would be my perfect shepherd and fill me with your love for the human shepherds you have placed in my life Amen

THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

If you stay free from offense, you will stay in the will of God. If you become offended, you will be taken captive by the enemy to fulfill his own purpose and will. So take your pick: Which will it be? Stay submitted to God. Resist the devil by not becoming offended. The dream or vision for your life will probably happen differently than you think it will, but His Word and His promises will not fail. Disobedience is the only thing that can abort God's plan.

WRITE A PRAYER...

Thanking God for having a good plan for your life and for working for good all the circumstances of your life.

Thank you so for having a good plan for my life and for working for good all the circumstances of my life & for showing & guiding me. Amen

HE BECAME OFFENDED.

HE BLAMED OTHERS FOR HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE SOUGHT REVENGE.

If you had been Joseph, how would you have responded? Would you have believed that you had the right to be offended?

Satan hopes we will take his bait of offense so that he will have a foothold into our lives.

If the devil could destroy us whenever he wanted to, he would have wiped us out a long time ago. Satan hopes we will take his bait of offense so that he will have a foothold into our lives to destroy both our relationships with God and our relationships with others. Don't take the bait, and Satan cannot touch you!

WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking God for the wisdom of Joseph to avoid taking offense and to trust Him instead of blaming others or circumstances for difficulties in life.

Dear LORD you know me better than I know myself and therefore I am asking you LORD for the wisdom of Joseph to avoid taking offense and to trust you, which I am working on, instead of blaming others. I don't feel I blame others LORD search my heart. I take ownership for the difficulties in my life. For it is up to me how I handle the difficulties in my life. I would like to become blameless. Thank you for all you do for me + my family LORD Amen ♡

THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

If you have changed churches, why? Check all the reasons you moved.

- Moved to another town
- Changed denominations
- Offended at a pastor
- Offended by lay leader(s)
- Offended by doctrine
- Offended by style of worship
- Offended by _____
- Other reasons: God lead me with no ill feelings however my pastor I will always love my pastor my on his

If offense was the reason for changing churches, then you are carrying the bait of Satan from one place to the next, sowing negative seeds and spiritual barrenness wherever you go.

Read the following scriptures, and then jot down what they have to say about the relationship between God's law, offense, spiritual growth, and bearing fruit.

Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who does not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His law day and night. He will be like a tree planted in the water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalms 119:165

Those who love God's law have great peace and nothing causes them to stumble. What the LORD is what the soul seeks. Meditating, obeying ~~god~~ bears us fruit.

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HOW SPIRITUAL VAGABONDS ARE BORN

"The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord." So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul.

—1 SAMUEL 24:6-7

[Read chapter 5, stopping at the heading "The Planted Flourish."]

IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID, GOD WAS testing David's heart (1 Sam. 24:6-7). God wanted to see whether David would kill to establish his kingdom after the order of Saul, or whether he would allow God to establish His throne forever.

Only God has the right to judge and avenge. In Romans 12:19 we read, "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." We must not take the prerogatives of God into our own hands. It is wrong to do a right thing in the wrong way.

Yes, Saul deserved to be judged and punished—but by God, not by David.

Think of a time when you took vengeance into your own hands and did not wait upon God. Describe the situation and its outcome or consequences.

Someone offended me and I confronted them with angry words and expressed my feelings + did not hold back. We stayed angry with one another which carried resentment which was not allowing me to draw until 214 I asked for forgiveness on my part.