

No Dark Clouds - Personal Application Lesson

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PA#3

Handling Conflict with Others

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“If, - if I ask Him, do you think this Jesus from Nazareth can give me a new face?” Beggar Boy bravely asks. Silence falls in the room momentarily. Suddenly, a great laughter erupts, especially from Brutaes who grabs a shiny Roman shield and stands up. “You don’t need this Jesus to heal you. I can do it right here by smashing your face into place with this shield.” Tiberius gets up and pushes Brutaes. “Shut up Brutaes!”

Beggar Boy rises, grabs a stool, and runs toward Brutaes. Instead of running around the table, the boy jumps on it. “You fat drunkard, don’t you ever talk about my face like that again!” Brutaes raises the shiny shield toward the boy. “What are you going to do about it – liver face!!”

Brutaes picks up his mug of wine and hurls it toward the boy. Beggar Boy deflects the mug with the stool sending wine flying all over the room. The mug rolls to the door. There is a big scramble as everyone tries to hold back both Beggar Boy and Brutaes

(Beggar Boy) enters the granary. Being late at night, all is quiet, and no one is around off to one side (in a corner of the room), is a large barrel of water. The boy walks to the barrel and with difficulty drags it to a closed door. He tilts the barrel on the door, carefully making sure no water spills. Certain that the barrel of water is properly balanced, the boy bangs on the door. There is no response. He bangs on the door a second time forcefully.

From inside the room, the boy hears the voice of Brutaes, “I’m coming! I’m coming! It’s the middle of the night already!” Beggar Boy sprints out of the granary and into the garrison courtyard. Hearing the sound of many gallons of water splashing behind him, the boy hears Brutaes screaming, “Auuugghhh!” “No one makes fun of my face – no one,” the boy tells himself. No Dark Clouds A Tale of the Christ, Chapter 9

When Beggar Boy was mocked about his face, he reacted with anger and revenge. What do you think he was really trying to protect in that moment—his pride, his pain, or something deeper?

After Beggar Boy dumps the water on Brutaes, he tells himself, “*No one makes fun of my face—no one.*” How does that moment reveal the difference between defending yourself and letting hurt control your choices?

Conflict touches every life. It rises from misunderstandings, unmet expectations, jealousy, betrayal, gossip, unfair treatment, or old wounds that never fully healed. Sometimes it comes from our own pride or quick words. Sometimes it comes from someone else’s cruelty. In Beggar Boy’s case, the hurt was real—but the way he responded only deepened the damage. He chose revenge. But revenge never heals anything. It only adds another wound to the ones already there.

Revenge feels powerful in the moment. It promises satisfaction, justice, or control. But it never delivers what it promises. It cannot heal a wounded heart. It cannot restore dignity. It cannot undo the harm that was done. Instead, it traps us in the very pain we are trying to escape.

Beggar Boy believed that getting even would make him feel strong. Instead, it tied him more tightly to the shame he carried. Revenge always does that—it keeps the wound open.

God calls His people to something far more courageous: to break the cycle instead of feeding it.

When relationships fall apart, many people wonder if God notices. They ask, “*If God cares, why does everything still feel so broken?*” Scripture gives us a different picture of God’s heart.

Romans 3:23 reminds us that all people have sinned and fall short of God’s glory. That truth affects every relationship we have. Because of sin, even small disagreements can explode into something painful. Even people who love God can hurt each other. Conflict rises easily not because God is distant, but because our world is still marked by the effects of the fall.

From the very beginning, conflict was never part of God’s design. Before sin entered the world, relationships were marked by trust, honesty, and peace. But when sin came, it twisted the way we speak, listen, and treat one another. Pride, fear, selfishness, and insecurity began to shape human interactions. These forces still influence us today.

Yet God has not abandoned us to this brokenness. Scripture points us toward a future where all conflicts will end. Revelation 21:4 describes a day when God wipes away every tear, and pain, betrayal, and relational wounds will be no more. Peace will not just be possible—it will be permanent. That promise reminds us that the struggles we face now are not the final story.

Until that day comes, God equips His children with His Word and His Spirit so they can walk a different path. He teaches us how to respond with humility instead of pride, forgiveness instead of bitterness, and courage instead of revenge. He shows us how to repair what has been damaged rather than making the wound deeper.

God's way of handling conflict is not weak or passive. It requires strength, patience, and a willingness to trust Him with the outcome. His way invites us to slow down before reacting, to listen before assuming, and to speak truth without cruelty. It invites us to forgive—not because the other person deserves it, but because Christ has forgiven us.

This doesn't mean pretending the hurt didn't happen. It doesn't mean allowing abuse or injustice. It means refusing to let anger become our master. It means choosing peace over payback, healing over harm, and wisdom over impulse.

Christ Himself modeled this. When He was insulted, He did not insult back. When He was mistreated, He did not seek revenge. Instead, He entrusted Himself to the Father who judges justly. His example shows us that strength is not found in striking back, but in choosing a higher road.

Conflicts will still happen. People will still disappoint us. We will still say things we regret. But Christ is always working to redeem what sin has broken. He softens hearts. He restores relationships. He teaches us how to love even when it is difficult. And when we choose His way instead of revenge, we become part of His healing work in the world.

Scripture Nuggets

“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”
Romans 14:19

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

“Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.” *Colossians 3:13*

“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.”
Ephesians 4:29

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.” *Proverbs 15:1*

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” *James 5:16*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” *Matthew 5:9*

“Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.” *Proverbs 10:12*

Reflection Questions

1. When conflict rises or relational hurt lingers, which Scripture Nugget speaks most clearly to you, and why?

2. If someone asked you, “Why does this keep happening to me? Does God expect me to just take it? Am I too flawed to have peaceful relationships?” how would you respond?

Christ’s Path to Reconciliation

When Jesus went to the cross, He didn’t just reconcile us to God—He also showed us the path to reconciling with others. His humility, sacrifice, and forgiveness reveal what true restoration looks like. Through Christ, we are empowered to break cycles of conflict, to seek peace, and to rebuild what has been damaged.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” *Romans 5:1*

“For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.” *Ephesians 2:14*

Discussion Questions

When Beggar Boy was mocked, he reacted with anger and revenge. Why do you think revenge can feel so tempting when we’re hurt, even though it never truly helps?

Think about a time when someone’s words or actions wounded you. What emotions rose up first, and how might God invite you to respond differently than your first impulse?

Conflict often reveals something deeper happening in our hearts—fear, pride, insecurity, or old wounds. What do you think Beggar Boy’s reaction shows about the pain he carries inside?

Jesus teaches us to pursue peace, forgiveness, and courage instead of payback. What might it look like, in your own relationships, to choose God’s way of handling conflict rather than the world’s way?