

Reflections with Sharon

Leave it to God

Read Romans 12:9-21

Anyone who has ever been horribly wronged knows what it means to struggle with the desire for revenge. I remember reading once of an old gentleman who worked as the night caretaker in a private school for very wealthy kids who showed little respect for those outside their ranks. The caretaker's patience was wearing thin because every day a group of girls would apply lipstick "kisses" to the mirror in the girls' bathrooms, leaving dozens of very hard to clean marks. And every night, the caretaker would spend hours cleaning off the lip marks, only to have them reappear the next day. When his repeated complaints yielded no results, the old gentleman decided to take matters into his own hands, taking his squeegee, he dipped it in the toilet bowl and proceeded to scrub the lip marks off the mirrors!

While feelings of revenge are normal when we've been wronged, we have to be careful what we do with our emotions. Acting irrationally on the spur of the moment, when our judgment is cloudy, can be dangerous and will, more often than not, lead to regret. Still there are those times when the hurt is so overwhelming that we feel driven to seek revenge: We want someone to pay for the wrong we suffered, and we want justice now. It can be especially difficult to endure injustice for a prolonged period of time, trying hard to suppress our anger, fearing that one day we may suddenly snap and lose all control.

No matter how hard we try, we'll never be able to right all wrongs. We cannot solve all problems; we cannot correct every mistake; we cannot mend every broken heart; we cannot soothe all hurts; we cannot prevent every tear; we cannot reverse every difficult situation; we cannot put a stop to everything that is unpleasant. We have to come to the place where we learn to step aside and leave it all to God. Let Him deal with the difficult people in our lives; let Him handle our impossibilities; let Him have the liberty to do as He wills with that thing that is causing us so much distress.

Giving that bothersome person or situation completely to God spells trust. And that will release us to enjoy life in the moment, knowing that when the time for revenge finally does come, it will be fair and right because it will be meted out from the hand of the One who keeps perfect accounts. We can't go wrong leaving it to God.