



Romans 12v19 : Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

This verse from Romans comes in the context of Paul outlining what true worship looks like as it relates to how believers interact both inside and outside the church (ch 12), as well as how we respond to government (ch 13).

We noted that our world loves a revenge story, and our hearts gravitate towards vengeance when we (or someone we care about) is wronged. We said that, at its best, this is a positive thing because it's something of our being created in the image of a good and just God. The problem is it's not our role (but his) and we're not good at it because we are sinful and fallen.

As always feel free to adapt, adjust or scrap for your group...

- **why do you think revenge stories are so popular?**
- **when do you personally feel tempted to take revenge?**
- **what reason does Paul give for us not doing that? What does this mean?**
- **how can we grow in not seeking to take revenge from others?**

Nb – as believers in a sinful, unjust and broken world, this verse is very much a focus on personal vengeance and retaliation, rather than a good and right desire to seek justice and reform in corrupt institutions or for immoral individuals. In Romans 13, for example, Paul will go onto to describe the role of the state as God's servant in enacting His present judgment now against wrongdoing. It is perhaps good for us to distinguish between a right desire for justice and reform and a wrong desire to want to pay-back the individual in some way.