

RUSSELL SANDERS
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PROVERBS 24:29

Proverbs 24:29 says, ***“Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me. I will render to the man according to his work.”***

The NIV puts it this way: ***“Do not say, ‘I’ll do to them as they have done to me. I’ll pay them back for what they did.’”***

A “payback” is the worldly reaction. It can feel like the natural response that we think is quite reasonable. It actually is a negative response of vengeance. This verse tells us not to be like that. As a Christian, God calls us to a higher response to those who have done us wrong. Jesus gave us that higher response in Matthew 5:38-45.

In that passage Jesus tells us that whatever someone does in an effort to take advantage of you that your response is to “go the extra mile” in kindness toward them. Is that easy? Not really, because it goes against our normal fleshly response.

If you respond negatively to their apparent abuse, that is no better than what a worldly sinner would do. (Verses 46-47.) We are to respond with Godly love from a perspective of kindness, in order to bring a witness of Christ within us.

You may even say, “But what if they really do deserve a payback?” Leave them in God’s hands, not your own. Romans 12:19 says, ***“Dearly beloved (of God) avenge NOT yourselves, but rather give place unto (God’s) wrath. For it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine; I will repay’, saith the Lord.”*** This is a quote from Deuteronomy 32:35 where God said to Moses, ***“To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence (payback).”***

On judgment day at the bema seat of judgment for our works, God will reward our good responses and works, so look for the eternal reward instead of our fleshly impulses.

Let us lay up our “treasures” above.