



## No Growth - Grudge

**Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.**

*James 5:9*

**Greviance** - Habakkuk 1:3

**Receiver** - Matthew 13:9

**Ungodly** - Proverbs 16:27

**Discourage** - Numbers 32:7

**Gossip** - Proverbs 18:8

**Envy** - Proverbs 27:4

**Seeing** - Proverbs 3:29

A grudge is having hard feelings toward someone that may create animosity, bitterness, hatred, injustice, malice, or resentment. This state of mind comes from a person due to envy or jealousy. In Leviticus nineteen, verse eighteen, "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD." A grudge is to murmur, to find a fault, or to complain. However, the grudging is not in the sense of dissatisfaction with what others possess, but it is that of being fretful and impatient while expressing the sense of grumbling. Grudges may arise from many causes. Either because others have advantages which we have not, we are discontented and unhappy as if it were wrong in them to have such enjoyments. Or because we, without reason, suppose they intend to slight and neglect us, or because we are ready to take offense at any little thing and to "pick a quarrel" with them. Some people are always grumbling. They have a sour, dissatisfied, discontented

temper; they see no excellence in other persons.

The grudgers are displeased that others are more prospered, honored, and beloved than themselves. Always complain about what others do, not because they are injured, but because others seem to be weak and foolish before them. Grudgers seem to feel that it becomes them to complain if everything is not according to what they estimate it should be. For believers, how do we handle people who grudge against us or if we grudge them? "Use hospitality one to another without grudging," as in First Peter one, verse nine.

A grudge can tempt people to have grief. To complain of a person or situation that did nothing against them but the fact that it bothers them. So, the complaint is about a thing that disturbs them, which causes their reaction to conflict with the person or situation. The story of these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who refused to serve Nebuchadnezzar's gods and worship the golden image, caused the king to grieve. The response in Daniel three, verse nineteen, "Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated."

A grudge can cause the listener to hear what they want to hear. However, many times, when the speaker is speaking, the hearer does not listen to what is said but believes what they think they heard. This behavior occurs because the receiver has developed a grudge that affects their attention to the one they feel is against. The situation with Jacob and Laban is an example of an issue between speaker and receiver in Genesis twenty-nine. Jacob's mother, Rebekah, was Laban's sister. The misunderstanding occurs when Laban, who has two daughters, Leah and Rachel, and Jacob have the desire for the younger one in Rachel. "And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel, thy younger daughter," in verse eighteen. In verse nineteen, "And Laban said *it is* better that I give her to thee than that I should give her to another man: abide with me." After serving the time for Rachel, Jacob asks Laban in verse

twenty-one, " And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her." Laban makes a feast and takes Leah, only to find out later it is not Rachel.

In Genesis twenty-nine, verses twenty-five through twenty-six, "And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What *is* this thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?" And Laban said It must not be so done in our country to give the younger before the firstborn. Jacob specifically asked for Rachel in verse eighteen, yet Laban did not hear his request and only gave what he thought.

A grudge can cause the ungodly to create unnecessary drama against believers.

Sometimes, the devil will use simple situations and make a big problem out of something that is nothing. Grudgers look to find a fault in those who do good in an attempt to bring trouble. Those who grudge are troublemakers.

The ungodly are pawns for the enemy's use against others, especially believers.

An example of such behavior was Pharaoh and the Israelites in Exodus five. Under the bondage of the King of Egypt, the people of God were building great things for the Egyptians. The Israelites used straws to make bricks to do the work required, with taskmasters monitoring them. However, Moses and Aaron, God's servants, confronted Pharaoh and asked to let the people go. This request made the King of Egypt so mad that he told the taskmasters to let the Israelites find straw for themselves to make bricks and fulfill the amount of work when they had the supply.

A grudger may cause discouragement. An example is Jonathan with his father Saul, who was against David in First Samuel nineteen, verse four. "And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul, his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* to thee-ward very good." People who often grudge others will try to discourage those who do nothing but good. The grudgers know that the chances of retaliation are minimal and continue to take advantage of it.

A Grudge begins with starting rumors. The person creates problems for the person against whom they have hard feelings. They say things that are not true to find fault and make others believe the same thing to form a bad reputation for the victim. All this is to satisfy their conscience and to alleviate some of those bad feelings to make them feel good. This gossip approach is ungodly and should not be for anyone, especially believers.

Saul had a grudge against David after hearing the chants in First Samuel eighteen, verse eight. "And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?" No matter what David did, it made Saul think wrong of him.

A grudge is born through envy. Extreme anger is only for a time because it requires a lot of energy. However, the envious person can meditate on someone or a situation without effort. Grudging someone through envy may absorb the mind so much that it can affect a person mentally and physically.

In Genesis four, verses one through ten, Cain and Abel, both brothers, brought an offering to the Lord. However, their offerings from them differ. "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering, he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

God questioned Cain, and when he talked with his brother, he slew him. Envy can build to the extreme. People see somebody doing something, and the fact that it is accepted and respected can create such a grudge, to the point of what happened between the two brothers.

Grudges can cause deception to the eyes. In Genesis forty-two, when Joseph's brethren visit Egypt, when Joseph was governor over the land, his brothers came to buy food because of famine. In verse eight of Genesis forty-two of this chapter, "And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him." Jacob's sons could not recognize their younger brother. During the famine, from Genesis forty-two through forty-five, the first trip to Egypt, then

the second trip there, the missing silver cup incident with Benjamin, until the revealing of Joseph's identity, none of the brothers recognize Joseph. The grudge the brethren developed made them unable to identify the younger one. If Joseph had not revealed himself to his brothers, they would not know it was him.

If a person allows a grudge to control their lives, it can damage them and the environment around them. It is time-consuming, does not do good but evil, and eventually causes the person to sin and affect others. Grudging others does not make things better but worse. There is no progress, only regress. Grudging others keeps God away and allows the devil to work with the holder.