

HOW DIFFERENT WOULD THIS STORY HAVE BEEN IF  
FENCE HAD BEEN BUILT! WHO KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN! NOW AS WE HEARD IN LUKE'S  
THIS MORNING: "We are called to even LOVE our  
to do good to those who hate us!"

"UFF DA" YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! THIS IS  
CALLING. [REDACTED]

BUILDING BRIDGES INSTEAD OF FENCES IS  
AND OBVIOUSLY, NONE OF US WILL BE PERFECT. (I  
CALLED "NOT" TO REPAY EVIL FOR EVIL OR ABUSE

WE ARE NOT <sup>to</sup> JUDGE OR CONDEMN BUT RATHER  
IT'S TOUGH! [REDACTED] REVENGE CAN SEEM  
SWEET, (AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT). LOVE & FORGIVENESS  
SOMETIMES HARD! RECONCILIATION IS OFTEN TIMES EASIER

HOWEVER! THE PAY BACK IS USUALLY WORTH  
THE EFFORT. YOU SEE, WHEN WE CHOOSE TO BUILD BRIDGES  
CHOOSE TO GIVE LOVE, WE USUALLY RECEIVE LOVE! WHEN  
CHOOSE TO FORGIVE, WE USUALLY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS!  
CHOOSE TO GIVE [REDACTED] WE USUALLY RECEIVE [REDACTED]

AND OFTEN TIMES THE MORE WE GIVE, THE MORE WE  
YOU SEE, BRIDGES CONNECT, FENCES CUT OFF. BRIDGES  
TOGETHER, FENCES ARE INTENDED TO SEPERATE!

NOW OBVIOUSLY, THE GREATEST BRIDGE BUILDER  
TIME IS JESUS CHRIST. (AND BY THE WAY, JESUS WAS A CARPENTER)  
AND JESUS CHRIST BUILT THE BRIDGE BETWEEN GOD & US

SO NOW AS WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY HERE  
OUR HOME IN HEAVEN! THANK GOD THAT JESUS CAME  
A BRIDGE & NOT A FENCE!

LIKE: "DO ONTO OTHERS BEFORE THEY CAN DO IT!"  
OR "I DON'T GET MAD, I GET EVEN!" OR "TO ERROR IS  
TO FORGIVE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!"

HAVE WE NOTICED HOW EASY IT IS TO CRY OUT  
JUDGEMENT & CONDEMNATION & HOW HARD IT IS TO OFFER  
FORGIVENESS. VENGEANCE SEEMS SO VERY EASY  
FORGIVENESS CAN BE SO VERY HARD!

REVENGE CAN SEEM "OH SO SWEET" & LOVE  
FORGIVENESS CAN SEEM IMPOSSIBLE!

IN OUR GOSPEL BIBLE READING  
LESSON IS RADICAL! YES, IT SEEMS  
MAYBE EVEN BIZARRE!

LET ME SHARE AGAIN A PORTION OF  
BIBLE READING: "Love your enemies, do good  
to those who hate you! BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE  
YOU! PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ABUSE YOU! If anyone  
~~strikes~~ STRIKES YOU ON THE CHEEK OFFER  
THE OTHER ALSO!

HOW IN THE WORLD CAN WE LOVE SOMEONE  
WHO DOESN'T LOVE US? HOW IN THE WORLD  
DO WE LOVE SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO HURT US?

DIFFICULT PEOPLE ARE A PROBLEM & WE  
TEND TO TOTALLY AVOID DIFFICULT PEOPLE! HOWEVER!  
LOVE TRULY CAN CHANGE PEOPLE!

THERE IS A STORY OF 2 BROTHERS WHO  
OWNED 2 FARMS RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER, FOR  
THEY FARMED TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE.

HOWEVER! AFTER A MINOR MISUNDERSTANDING  
THERE DEVELOPED SOME BITTERNESS.

I LIKE THE STORY ABOUT A WEARY SEMI-TRUCK DRIVER WHO PULLED HIS BIG RIG INTO AN ALL-TRUCK STOP. THE WAITRESS HAD JUST SERVED HIM WHEN 3 TOUGH <sup>HOLLY ANGEL TYPE</sup> LOOKING MOTORCYCLISTS DECIDE TO GIVE HIM A HARD TIME!

NOW NOT ONLY DID THEY VERBALLY ABUSE HIM, ONE GRABBED HIS HAMBURGER OFF HIS PLATE, ANOTHER TOOK A HANDFUL OF HIS FRENCH FRIES, & THE THIRD ONE PICKED UP HIS COFFEE AND BEGAN TO DRINK IT.

WELL, THIS SEMI-TRUCK DRIVER DID NOT GET MAD. HE SIMPLY GOT UP, WALKED TO THE FRONT OF THE CASH REGISTER, AND PUT HIS MONEY ON THE CASH REGISTER.

THE WAITRESS FOLLOWED HIM TO PUT HIS MONEY IN THE CASH REGISTER & THEN STOOD BY THE DOOR AS THE "BIG RIG" DROVE AWAY AND LEFT THE NIGHT.

WHEN SHE RETURNED, ONE OF THE MOTORCYCLISTS SAID TO HER: "WELL, HE'S NOT MUCH OF A TRUCK DRIVER!" SHE SAYS, "I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT! BUT HE'S NOT MUCH OF A MOTORCYCLIST EITHER! HE JUST RAN AWAY ON HIS MOTOR CYCLES ON HIS WAY OUT OF THE PARKING LOT."

SOUNDS LIKE GETTING EVEN TO ME! YOU KNOW, SOMEONE <sup>WRONGS</sup> US, OUR INSTINCT IS TO GET EVEN! WE WANT TO HURT THEM AS MUCH (OR MORE) THAN THEY HURT US!

THE TRUTH IS THAT OUR "HUMAN NATURE" LOVES REVENGE! JUST TAKE A LOOK AT SOME BUSTERS STICKERS, THAT MAKE US SMILE:

ONE DAY THE BITTERNESS EXPLODED INTO AN  
OF ANGRY WORDS, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY WEEK  
SILENCE. <sup>NOW</sup> ONE DAY THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE  
BROTHERS DOOR. HE OPENED THE DOOR AND THERE  
CARPENTER WITH <sup>HIS</sup> TOOL <sup>BOX</sup> BOX.

THE CARPENTER SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR  
MAYBE <sup>HIS</sup> A SMALL JOB FOR HIM TO <sup>DO</sup> DO! WELL THE  
SAID, "AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO!" SEE THAT CREEK  
LAST WEEK IT WAS JUST A MEADOW.

HOWEVER! MY YOUNGER BROTHER DROVE A BULL  
A DITCH ALL THE WAY TO THE RIVER AND NOW THERE IS  
BETWEEN US! NOW OBVIOUSLY MY BROTHER DID IT <sup>TO</sup> TO SPIT  
I'M GOING TO DO HIM ONE BETTER. I WANT <sup>YOU</sup> TO DO  
AN 8 FOOT FENCE SO I CAN'T EVEN SEE HIS <sup>FARM</sup> FARM!

THE CARPENTER QUIETLY SAID <sup>TO</sup> TO ME, I THINK I  
THE SITUATION. <sup>ME</sup> NOW WERE THE LUMBER AND NAILS ARE  
CARPENTER WORKED HARD ALL DAY MEASURING - SAWING

ABOUT SUNSET THE OLDER BROTHER CAME BY TO CH  
JOB & HIS EYES OPENED WIDE & HIS JAW DROPPED!  
THERE WAS NO FENCE! <sup>THE</sup> THE CARPENTER HAD  
BRIDGE FROM ONE SIDE OF THE CREEK TO THE OTHER

AND GUESS WHAT? HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WAS ON  
THE BRIDGE WITH A "GREAT BIG" SMILE ON HIS FACE! WHEN  
BROTHERS MET, THEY EMBRACED AND THEY FORGAVE

AND NOW COMES THE KEY: WE AS CHRISTIANS,  
TO BUILD BRIDGES - NOT FENCES!