

What Do You Do When You Get “Ripped Off?”

Defining the term “**Ripped Off**”

A verb, to “**Rob, Cheat, Defraud, Steal from.**”

Defraud = “To deprive of something by deception or fraud.”

All of us have experienced being Ripped Off at times in our lives:

- It usually starts when we’re young when a brother/sister, or neighborhood friend or school mate gets the advantage over us.
- We experience it as we grow up in this world where someone either intentionally or un-intentionally rips us off.
- It always leaves a bad feeling in us and causes us to be cautious and guarded in our future relations with people.
- No one likes being taken advantage of, but in this world Jesus forewarned us:
Luke 17:1 “Then He said to the disciples, It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to those through whom they do come.”
IMPOSSIBLE that offenses should not come.

Ok, we don’t like that; but what are you, as a disciple of Jesus, going to do when it happens to you? **What is the Biblical response?**

1. **A look at one of our favorite Bible characters – David:**

1Sam 29 records the story that David, in fleeing from King Saul had gone to live among The Philistines. The Philistines were going to battle against King Saul and David had aligned himself with the Philistines to go into battle.

For fear David would defect and kill the them, the Philistine leaders refused to allow David to go with them against Israel. They knew of the song sang about David: “Saul has killed his thousands and David his ten thousands.”

So David is sent back to his region of Zigltag.

1Sam 30 Upon his and the army’s arrival in Zigltag they find their city had been raided by the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites:

“When David and his men came to Zigltag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south and Zigltag, attacked Zigltag and burned it with fire, and had taken those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.

So David and his men came to the city, and there it was; burned with fire and their wives, their sons, and their daughters were taken captive.

Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

v. 6- Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters,

BUT DAVID STRENGTHENED HIMSELF IN THE LORD HIS GOD.

v. 8 – **So David inquired of the Lord**... sought direction as to what to do now.

There are several things David did that set an example of what to do when you are “RIPPED OFF.”

1. **David humbled himself** – he was a mighty man of war, but his first response was to humble himself.

- Scriptural advice tell us: James 1:19-20 “Let everyone be swift to hear; slow to speak, slow to wrath/anger; for the wrath/anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”
- Psa. 37:8 “Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret – it only causes harm.”
- Prov. 16:32 “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty. And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”
- Prov. 19:11 “The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.”
- Ecc. 7:9 “Do not hasten/be quick in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.”
- Eph. 4:26, 27 “Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

Even the Lord God got and gets angry, but He does not sin or lose it when He is.

David and his men were definitely “RIPPED OFF” when they discovered their families were kidnapped and their city was burned to the ground.

- V. 4 - They wept until they couldn’t weep anymore. Emotionally drained. Even David had his cry with them, he also had two wives and children kidnapped. David was distressed because of the people’s response towards him.

The men’s response towards David was lethal.

- They had thoughts of killing him, he was the leader and somehow he responsible for all of this mess.
- Goes with the turf of being in leadership – “The buck stops here!”

- People can turn the energy of their grief or disappointment towards others.

2. David sought the counsel of the Lord as to what to do next - v. 6b

“But David strengthened/encouraged himself in the Lord his God.”

“**Strengthened/encouraged**” = Heb. *CHAZAQ* = *khaw-zak*.

“To seize, be strong, restrain, be constant, be of good courage, be established, fortify.”

- Today’s vernacular = “Get a grip on yourself, suck it up, or put your big-boy pants on and face it.”

David’s prayer and worship life opened the heavens for him to receive direction from the Lord as to what course of action to take.

After his humbling of himself, he found strength in the Lord to rise up and fight.

- There are times when we have to get away with the Lord to sort things out and get our mind right and fixed on Who God is, who we are in Him, and what He has called us to do with our lives for His glory.
- Nothing will ever replace doing what the “old timers” call “PRAYING THROUGH.”
- P.U.S.H. = “PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS”

2. What is the direction the Scriptures give us when we get “RIPPED OFF?”

James 5:7, 8, 10-11 “Be patient, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish [be resolute] your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. We count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the patience of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord – that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

1Peter 3:9-15, 17, 18 “Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.

Turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it, for the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.

Sanctify the Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good

than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit...”

1Peter 4:1– 2, 5, 12-19

“Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm** [equip] yourselves also **with the same mind** for He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of His time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”

Jesus’ mind was fixed on going to Jerusalem to offer Himself as the sacrifice for humankind’s sin.

Heb. 12:2 “Looking to Jesus the author and finishers of our faith; who **for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God.”

v. 5 “They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

Vv. 12-19 “Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God, rests upon you.

On their part, He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.

If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

Closing:

The Christian life has been described as a marathon run and not a sprint.

Becoming a Christian is for this life and eternity –

Paul, in describing the Christian life, used many sports parallels:

He talks about a runner shedding the excess baggage so that he can run the race without hindrances.

I'd like to remind us of the difference between those who are short distance sprinters and those who enter marathon runs.

In running a marathon, there comes a point in the race when the runner gets fatigued and out of breath and the body wants to shut down and quit.

The mind is harassed with thoughts of: "This is not worth it, just quit." "This is too much abuse to my body, I can't take anymore!"

But as the runner keeps putting one foot in front of the other – staying in motion:
A strange phenomenon happens:

SECOND WIND begins to kick in. What is **SECOND WIND**?

Described as: "A phenomenon in distance running, when an athlete who is out of breath and too tired to continue suddenly finds the strength to press on at top performance with less exertion.

Scientists believe the second wind is a result of the body finding the proper balance of oxygen to counteract the buildup of lactic acid in the muscles. It could be due to endorphin production.

The phenomenon has come to be used as a metaphor for continuing on with renewed energy past the point thought to be one's prime, whether in sports, careers or life in general."

The scriptures and the Holy Spirit are saying to us:

- Keep doing what you know is right.
- Find the time and place of being in God's presence for times of refreshing and redirection and hearing His voice.

"Be not weary in well doing, for in due season, you will reap IF you faint not."

Gal. 6:9