

A Hang-Up for the Artist

Leonardo da Vinci was a gifted artist. It is said that just before he began his painting of *The Last Supper*, he had a nasty quarrel with a fellow artist.

Leonardo felt so bitter toward his rival that he determined to paint the face of his enemy as the face of Judas. In that way, he would take revenge on the man. By picturing him as the betrayer of Jesus, he would make his face the object of scorn to all who viewed the painting.

The face of Judas was one of the first that Leonardo finished, and everyone could easily recognize it as the face of the painter with whom he had quarreled. But when Leonardo began to paint the face of Jesus, he could make no progress. Something seemed to be hindering his best efforts.



According to the story, he finally came to the conclusion that the frustration he was experiencing was due to his continuing hatred of his enemy. Immediately, Leonardo painted out the face of Judas and began again on the face of Christ, this time with the success that the ages have come to acclaim.

What about you? Is there someone you need to forgive today? Doing so can bring you freedom from stress and bitterness.

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you (Matthew 6:14).

– Beecher Hunter