

## Drama at the Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall was a barrier constructed by the German Democratic Republic in 1961 that completely shut off West Berlin from surrounding East Germany and from East Berlin. It was destroyed in 1990, paving the way for German reunification.

A remarkable story happened during its existence. One day, some of the East Berliners decided they were going to send their West Berlin adversaries a little “gift.” They loaded a dump truck with garbage, broken bricks, stones, building materials, and anything else with zero value. They drove the truck across the border, gained clearance, and dumped it on the West Berlin side.



Needless to say, the West Berliners were incensed and vowed to “get even” with them. They were going to “pay them back.”

Fortunately, a very wise man intervened and gave entirely different counsel. As a result, they responded and loaded a dump truck with food (which was scarce in East Berlin), clothing (which was also scarce), medical supplies (which were even scarcer), and a host of other essential items. They took the truck across the border, carefully unloaded it all, and left a neat sign that read, “Each gives according to his ability to give.”



The West Berliners had taken Booker T. Washington’s philosophy literally: “I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.”

The Bible says that when you repay evil with good, you “heap coals of fire” on the other person’s head.

It makes us smile to wonder how the East Berliners must have felt, along with their gratitude for the much-needed supplies. More than likely, they were somewhat embarrassed at their own attitudes.

Is there someone who has mistreated you? Don’t “get even.” Show some kindness.

– Beecher Hunter