

Losing the Leeches

A traveler was making his way with a guide through the jungles of Burma.



They came to a shallow, wide river and waded through it to the other side. When the traveler came out of the river, numerous leeches were on his torso and legs. His first instinct was to grab them and pull them off.

The guide stopped him, warning that doing so would leave tiny pieces of the leeches under the skin. Eventually, infection would set in.

The best way to rid the body of the leeches, the guide advised, was to bathe in a warm balsam bath for several minutes. This would calm the leeches, and soon they would release their hold on the man's body.

There is a spiritual correlation to this story.

When we've been hurt by another person, we cannot simply yank the injury from ourselves and expect that all bitterness, malice and emotion will be gone. Resentment still hides under the surface.

The only way to become truly free of the offense and to forgive others is to immerse ourselves in the soothing bath of God's forgiveness.

When we finally fathom the extent of God's love in Jesus Christ, forgiveness of others will follow.

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another. If anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do (Colossians 3:13 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter