

Mercy Under Fire

A young and hot-tempered officer in the army struck a foot soldier. The foot soldier was noted for his courage. He felt the insult deeply, but military discipline forbade him to return the blow. He said with conviction, however, "I will make you repent it."

One day in the heat of battle, the foot soldier saw an officer who was wounded and separated from his company. He gallantly forced his way through enemy lines to the officer, whom he recognized as the one who had insulted him. Nevertheless, he supported the wounded man with one arm as the two fought their way back to their own lines.

Trembling with emotion, the officer grasped the hand of the soldier and stammered out his gratitude, "Noble man! What a return for an insult so carelessly given."

The young man pressed his hand in turn, and with a smile, said gently: "I told you I would make you repent it." From that time on, they were as brothers.

Extending God's grace to those who have wronged us can repair just about any broken relationship. Instead of returning anger with anger, choose to use kindness. You will be surprised at the result.

--Beecher Hunter