

The Big Bully at the Bar

Here's a simple rule: Be quick to defend others, but be slow to defend yourself.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I never give an explanation of my actions to my critics."



The reason, he added, is this: "My friends don't need an explanation, and my enemies wouldn't believe it."

That is wise advice. Even so, it is worth noting that Jesus said: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:38-39 ESV).

Jesus was *not* advocating that we become a doormat to people who try to abuse us or walk over us. The Apostle Paul went on to say in Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." Sometimes, that is not always possible.

I read about a small man who walked into a restaurant, sat down to eat, and a big bully sitting on a barstool got up and walked over to that little man and chopped him across the neck, knocking him flat on the floor. As the man was getting up, the big man said, "That's karate from Japan."

Well, the smaller man rubbed his neck, sat back down, and tried to eat his meal. A few minutes later, the big man returned, picked the little man off the chair, threw him over his shoulder and said, "That's judo from Japan."

Quietly, the little man walked out of the restaurant, with the big man laughing at him. He returned 15 minutes later, walked up behind the bully, cracked him over the head and said, "That's a crowbar from Sears."

Sometimes, self-defense is not only warranted and necessary, but it's good for the other person.

Forgiveness, and not revenge, however, should be our first response.

– Beecher Hunter