

The Scorpion Strikes Back

A holy man, sitting by a stream, noticed a large scorpion struggling to get out of the swirling waters.

The holy man used a stick to try to push the insect ashore, but it only struck at the stick with its poisonous tail.

A friend passed by and said, “Don’t you know it’s the nature of a scorpion to attack?”



“Yes,” said the holy man, “but it’s my nature to save. Why should I change my nature just because the scorpion won’t change his?”

That’s a good question – one every Christian should consider.

If ever we strike back at someone who has attacked us, we deny the very nature of Christ, who lives in us. The apostle Paul said, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

Did Jesus retaliate and strike back at those who mistreated Him? We know He did not: “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that should follow His steps: ‘who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth;’ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:21-23).

If Christ lives in us, we should not retaliate either.

Nothing can quench the fires of hatred like the healing waters of love.

By the leadership roles we have in Life Care and Century Park, we lead very public lives, and people – our associates and the community at large – watch closely how we conduct ourselves. If they see love and compassion in our words and deeds, they are drawn to us.

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord (Leviticus 19:18 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter