

WHAT HERCULES LEARNED

The Greek divine hero, Hercules, the son of Zeus and the mortal Alcmene, was famous for his strength and for his numerous far-ranging adventures.

According to one legend, he grew increasingly irritated by a menacing animal that kept blocking his path. He angrily struck the animal with his club, killing it.

As he continued on his path, he kept encountering the same animal, each time more menacing than before. At last, a fiend warned Hercules to stop his furious assaults.

“The monster is Strife, and you are stirring it up,” said the messenger. “Just let it alone, and it will shrivel and die.”

That story has good application for us.

Our newspapers are full of stories about strife. We read about nations disrupted by civil strife, athletes upset by team strife, companies suffering labor strife, of homes troubled by marital strife.

The Bible uses the word *strife* many times. Solomon said, “Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife” (Proverbs 17:1 NKJV). And Paul said, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy (Romans 13:13 NKJV).

We are not responsible for the activities and reactions of others, but we are responsible for our own. Put on the Lord Jesus, evict strife from your life, forgive that grudge, and seek to live peaceably with all.

– Beecher Hunter