

## The Agony of Gentleness

### The Christian Response to Revilement

August 26th, 2012

### The Invasion of the Fun Guys

Mine enemies speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land. Yes, they opened their mouth wide against me and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it!

**Psalm 35:20-21**

### The Shock of Revilement

Blessed are you when they **revile** and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Matthew 5:11-12**

### Three Tactics of Soul Shock (They Travel in Twos)

#### 1. The Hit and Bait Technique

- **The Job of the Hit Man:** Hit ‘em as hard as you can, as brutally as you can, and as spitefully as you can. Show no mercy and be as unjust and as disrespectful as you can get away with.
- **The Job of the Bait Man:** The moment the Hit Man hits, the Bait Man whispers, “That is unjust, that is not right - defend yourself, rise up and make this right! For the sake of your reputation, argue! Be mad! Be angry at this unsavory, disrespectful hit at your reputation!”

## 2. The Accuse and Force-Inspection Technique

- **The Job of the Accuser:** Bring the accusation. If you can build off of real faults or short-comings, great - but no matter. Accuse, whether there be a scrap of truth to it or not.
- **The Job of the Force-Inspection Officer:** The moment the accusation comes, in steps the Force-Inspection Officer. His job is to try and force the victim inward, to examine self and get caught up in exhaustive inner-evaluation. So, to accomplish this he whispers over and over again, “But what if it’s true?” He plies the soul with concern over the notion that maybe the accuser is right and maybe “you really are a terrible criminal, you just don’t realize it.” The job of the FI Officer is to endlessly press this point of concern. For the spiritual man, who wants to be right with God, is vulnerable to the notion that maybe there is something that currently he is not seeing, and that the Accusing voice may have some validity.

## 3. The Misery and Run Technique

- **The Job of the Misery Man:** To conspire a way to bring difficulty and hardship to the victim. Devise a scheme that will

bring discomfort, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual - it doesn't matter. The key is that it is discomfort, and ideally - great discomfort.

- **The Job of the Run Man:** The job of the Run Man is fairly simple. He yells, "Run!" when the Misery Man strikes. He shouts, "Get out of here! Go and hide! Leave this whole thing behind!" The Run Man also has an ongoing follow-up job to tend to. He also will whisper, "You don't deserve this. You deserve better. Why don't you go and do something that would be easier on you?"

## Christians Reviling?

Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

**James 3:11-12**

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridles not his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

**James 1:26**

Do not say, I will recompense evil; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

**Proverbs 20:22**

Do not say, I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.

**Proverbs 24:29**

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, **or a railer (also reviler)** or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

### **1 Corinthians 5:11**

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, **nor revilers**, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

### **1 Corinthians 1:6-9**

## Miseō - Mis-SAY-oh

To pursue with hatred, to detest.

## The Evil Miseō Family

- **Daddy Miseō - Revile**

The big guy who gives rise to all the other Miseōs. He's married to Vilify, and together they labor in the sewer waters of scorn, contempt, and character assassination. Daddy Miseō (a.k.a. - Revile) doesn't have one pleasant word to say. He uses his tongue and his pen to attack, and he does his attacking with deep emotional fervor. His agenda is to bring shame upon others, to discredit them, and to attribute evil and sinister motives to what others say and do.

- **Momma Miseō - Vilify (aka - Defame)**

This woman is pure evil. She heeds the voice of Daddy Miseō without question, and does his dirtiest work. She spreads words of destruction. She is a master at tagging innocence with guilt. She can brand spotless purity with the tag of pungent immorality. She can take pure motive and cause others to see it as murderously conspiratorial. She takes simple pastors and brands them evil cult-leaders. She takes lovers of children and ruins them with accusations of molestation. She is the accuser of the brethren, seeking to soil the reputation of the Children of Light.

- **Big Sister Miseō - Scorn**

Big Sister Miseō is a specialist in the family. While her Daddy and Momma labor in the realm of public battering, she labors more in private. She is personally responsible for bringing them their food and keeping them strong. All day long she prepares the food that would give Revile and Vilify their strength. In other words, she does their research. She looks for dirt, any dirt that might be utilized to harm. She builds mountains out of molehills, diseases out of drippy noses. Throughout the day, she brings large plates of putrid exaggerated food to the sewer lands where her Daddy and Mommy are working.

- **Little Brother Miseō - Mock**

Little Brother Miseō is not as polished and mature in his manner as the rest of his family. He's a rough character and lacks the deeper intelligence and ruthless conspiratorial abilities of the rest of his family. Long and short, he is a bully. Revile, Vilify, and Scorn supply for him daily his list of those to pick on and abuse. Where the other three hit upon public reputation and seek to destroy through deceit, Little Brother (a.k.a. - Mock) does his dirty work in a completely different way. His job is to keep the target off-balance, turn them inward to self, cause them to question their sanity, get them to hold a grievance, or stimulate questions of whether this is really all worth it. Revile, Vilify, and Scorn seek to

erode the foundation, while Mock's job is to throw rocks at the windows and thus keep the victim's eyes away from the greater attack.

## Prepare for Battle

A couple pieces of advice as you step forward in ministry

### #1 - Do not be soul-shocked - fix your stance and be ready for the hit

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

**1 Peter 4:12**

### #2 - Be armed with the necessary weaponry

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 4:16**

## Grace is our Weaponry

### Two Key Graces Needed for Rightly Handling Revilement

1. The Grace of Discernment
2. The Grace of Gentleness

#### 1. The Grace of Discernment

Is this marked by the Gentleness of God or the Harshness of the Enemy?

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

**John 10:10-11**

## The Nature of the Thief

- To Steal
- To Kill
- To Destroy

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom **does not descend from above**, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where **envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.**

**James 3:14-15**

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**James 3:17-18**

## The Nature of Jesus

- To bring Life, that we may have it in abundance

## Praýtēs - Prow-Tase

mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness

## Praotēs - Pra-ah-Tase

Gentleness, mildness, meekness

## Gentleness

The Opposite Spirit - it's softness when struck with hardness, mildness when hit with harshness, and a gentle word when belted with a spiteful word. Gentleness is divine control and governance over the inner man, holding the flesh in check that it not be given voice or strength in the matter.

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in **Praotēs** correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of **Praotēs**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

**Galatians 6:1**

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and **Praotēs**,



with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Ephesians 4:3**

. . . Speak evil of no one . . . be peaceable, gentle, showing all **Praotēs** to all men.

**Titus 3:2**

Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

**Philippians 4:5**

## 2. The Grace of Gentleness

To Respond as Christ is the Greatest Weapon that Grace Supplies

### The Rocks of the Wild Goats

Where the Noble separates out from Ignoble

Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.) Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of

the LORD." So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way. David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'? "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' "Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it." Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

### **1 Samuel 24:2-12**

## The Commission to Gentleness

You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven . . .

### **Matthew 5:38-45**

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you . . . love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

### **Luke 6:27-38**

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

### **Romans 12:17-19**

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; **not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling**, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil. And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you

should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit . . .

**1 Peter 3:8-18**

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly.

**Luke 22:44**