

***Rejection:
Revenge vs. Redemption***

What is your response
to rejection:
revenge or redemption?

To take revenge
masks the hurt:
the symptoms are treated,
but the wound remains;
to seek redemption
addresses the cure.

Revenge is about
me;
redemption concerns
us.

Revenge involves
destruction;
redemption looks to
re-building.

Revenge makes the situation
worse;
redemption tries to make it
better.

To avenge
is the obvious path,
but not a solution;
to redeem
requires imagination
and ends in resolution.

Rejection should be
the stimulus
for renewed effort,
not the excuse
for retaliation.

Revenge initiates
a cycle of violence
and a state of hate;
redemption eradicates
the recurrent animosity
with a state of grace.

Revenge calculates
the toll
to be inflicted
on the other;
redemption pays
the price
to be asked of me.

To take revenge
is to play by the rules
set by my opponent;
to be a redeemer
is to create a new game.

Revenge
does not even
the playing field,
but destroys it;
redemption
puts us back
on common ground.

Revenge
is a smoldering fire
that is never extinguished;
redemption
is a bath of regeneration
that replenishes life.

To be an avenger
is a venture
fraught with failure;
to be a redeemer
is an adventure
replete with success.

Revenge presumes
that the fault
lies solely with the other;
redemption starts
with purifying oneself.

The history of humanity
shows tribes and nations
resorting to vengeance
in response to rejection;
the good news of Gospel
offers us a Redeemer
with His message and model
of redemption.

Rejection, therefore,
has to be met with
reconciliation,
which will happen
only through redemption
and not revenge.

© Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski
June 16, 2006

Fr-Walter@dny.com
www.fatherwaltersparish.org