

# THE BATTLESHIP

As human beings we can all associate unforgiveness with stubbornness. Stubbornness is something we are all too familiar with, stubbornness has created monsters of all of us at one time or another, but stubbornness too can be and must be controlled. The following story is a typical example of stubbornness that can cost lives.

Through the pitch dark of the night the captain of the ship noticed a light, dead ahead and on a collision course. The captain yells at his signal man and says, tell that



light to change its course immediately 10 degrees east. The light signals back; you change your course 10 degrees west. The captain of the ship gets angry, he sends the reply, I am a navy captain, change your course mister. The light answered back; I'm a seaman second class and I'm telling you to change your course immediately and steer 20 degrees west. The captain is now furious, he signals back to the light; I am a captain in the US Navy, I command you to turn 30 degrees east, I'm not about to change my course for a second class seaman. The light replied, sir I suggest you turn immediately 40 degrees west or else. The captain was now foaming at the mouth; he signals back to the light; I am a captain in the US Navy and I am commanding the nuclear battleship, the SS Nimitz, this is friendly territory, I have put up with your crapp long enough, I command you to turn 50 degrees east now! The light replies; I am a lighthouse, it's your call!

Stubbornness can destroy lives as fast as water can put out a fire, it must be dealt with and our attitudes must be adjusted accordingly. A true Believer cannot and will not seek revenge on his enemies. You can be right or you can be reconciled, but you can't be both. It is easy to get carried away when your mad, and say things we

later regret. Too many times we take revenge with our tongue and our tongue is guaranteed to get us in trouble. James 3:7-9 says "Man has been able to tame and has tamed all other creatures, wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish, but no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison" **Rom. 12:14-21** says *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". "*

If people persecute you because you are a Believer in Yahveh, don't curse them, pray that Yah will bless them. When others are happy, be happy, if they are sad, share their sorrow. Live in harmony with one another. Don't try to act important, but enjoy the company of ordinary people and don't think you know it all. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible. Dear friends never avenge yourselves, leave that to Yah, for it is written, I will take vengeance, I will repay those who deserve it, says Yahveh". Instead do what the scriptures say. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink and they will be ashamed of what they have done to you. Don't let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good. Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, and remember Yah says "I will look after vengeance" Think about that, would you like to be on the receiving end of Yah's vengeance?

(Mar 26/16) Jerry Hennig