

# *Welcome to Journey 15*

Taking an Intentional Journey to Breathe

*SIJ - 15 Years of Celebrating Our Journey Together*



# God Knows The Vindication You Seek

## Chapter 3

Seeking vindication over something like gossip certainly didn't seem small.

- Hurtful to family.
- Lose jobs.
- Lose opportunities.
- Damage relationships.
- Destroy ministries.
- Destroy lies.



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### **James 3:5-6 MSG**

A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it.



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## Chapter 3

Can you visualize an offense like a rock that is thrown at you?



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The rock that was thrown at you in the form of an offense –

Throw it back at the person –  
**vindication.**

Hold on to it – **grudge or  
bitterness.**

Lay it at the feet of Jesus.

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The one thing the enemy uses most often is holding on to the offense, and it manifests itself in **unforgiveness, holding grudges or developing a root of bitterness.**

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### Payback – Seeking Patterns

- Our attempts at paying people back do not take away the issue at hand.
- When we try to pay people back it never eases our pain, it only extends it.



Feel helpless



Feel afraid



Feel angry



Try to control it



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Give God your rocks and you will become **better** not **bitter**.

The best way to seek vindication is to let God who is fully aware of the situation heal you from it.





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Things to do before you payback.

**Pause**

Pausing helps give us distance from the intensity of a situation and clarity on how we should respond.

**Pray**

Prayer is the key to getting results.

**Ponder**

A plan can often save you from regret from a hasty payback.



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### Vengeances vs. Vindication

#### Vengeances

Pursuing revenge at all cost and using our preferred method.

#### Vindication

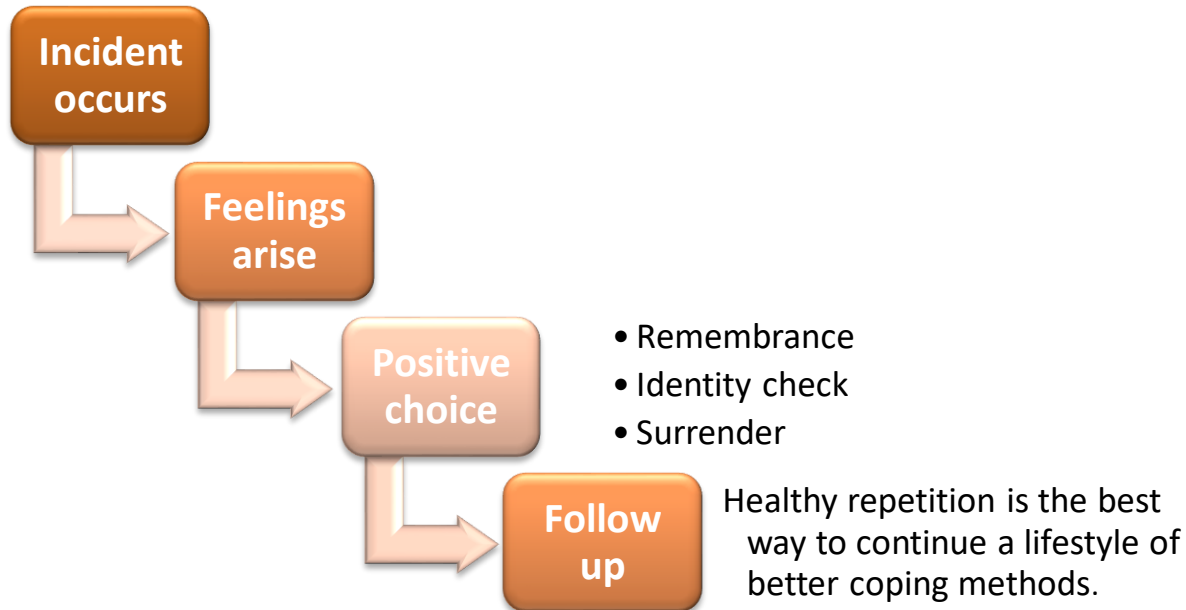
Is a natural desire to have our name cleared, a wrong made right, the record set straight.



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### Healthy Approach to Things That Feel Unfair



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**God's omniscience should be the single factor that prompted us to speak or stay silent.**



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**Faulty *If 1*: If I do right, things will go right for me.**

Are you the rule follower?

- Follow the program.
- Follow the formula.
- Follow the recipes.

Those who live by the rules and systems should be in excellent shape!



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**Faulty *If* 2: If I am kind, people will behave kindly toward me.**

Are you **disappointed**, **indigent**, or **offended** when you are kind or generous to others and they do not return the favor?

We should do unto others as we would want them to do unto us, but with the understanding they may not.



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### What if:

- We are **kind**, they aren't **kind** back.
- We are good friends, and they are **lousy** to us.
- We are honest with them, and they **lie** to us.



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**Remember ... God knows.**

His knowledge of our situation brings a protective factor that has a way of bringing false information to light.

**Exodus 14:14** “The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still.”





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### Understanding the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation.

Forgiveness	Reconciliation
Focuses on the offense.	Focuses on the relationship.
Does not require relationship.	Requires a relationship in which two people, in agreement are working together toward the same goal.

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Forgiveness	Reconciliation
Can take place with only one person.	Requires two people.
Is directed one way.	Is reciprocal, occurring two ways.
Is a decision to release the offender.	Is the effort to rejoin the offender.
Involves a change in thinking about the offender.	Involves a change in behavior by the offender.
Is a free gift to the one who has broken trust.	Is a restored relationship based on restored trust.
Is extended even if it is never earned.	Is offered to the offender because it has been earned.
Is unconditional, regardless of a lack of repentance.	Is conditional based on the offender's repentance.

**The Truth is:**



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**You have one rock and three options.**

**Will you forgive and release the rock to the feet of Jesus?**

