heaping coals of fire: the power of a forgiving heart

introduction: offenses will come

john, a son of thunder

luke 9:51-56
when the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the samaritans to make arrangements for Him. but they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward jerusalem. when His disciples james and john saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” but He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” and they went on to another village.
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point: the apostle paul’s letter to rome

vengeance is the Lord’s

romans 12:14-21

bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 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. never pay back evil for evil to anyone. respect what is right in the sight of all men. if possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 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.
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counterpoint: the teaching of Jesus

Jesus on vengence

Matthew 5:38-42
“you have heard that it was said, ‘an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ but I say to you, do not 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 your shirt, let him have your coat also. whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”

Matthew 26:51-54
and behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached out and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. then Jesus said to him, “put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? how then will the scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?”

cornerstone forgiveness
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resolution: rethinking romans

the body relating to persecution — vengeance is the Lord’s

romans 12:14-21
“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 on his head.” do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

proverbs 25:21, 22
if you enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.
application: bless them! bless them! bless them!

john, a son of thunder

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.