

Brothers

“Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, ‘The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.’”

Genesis 27:41 (NIV)

I will never forget a suggestion my wife made to me in August 2004. I had a week of holiday booked for that month and we had not planned to do anything much except day trips to some of the tourist traps in our vicinity.

What my wife suggested to me was that I take the week and go visit my brother who lived about 2 1/2 hours distance from us. She mentioned that he had suffered a couple of heart attacks and I did not know how much longer I would enjoy his company before he left for heaven.

I had been visiting him for a couple of days each month for several years ever since his wife had passed away. We were very close as brothers and enjoyed the same interests in life. He owned a classic car, a 1941 Buick, just like one our father had for our family car many years earlier. We loved to drive it around the country roads near his home in the sum-

mer and reminisce about the “good old days”.

I took that week and spent it with Ernest. We stayed up late watching movies, went to seafood restaurants and ate lobster, our favorite seafood, and talked about family members long gone. He flew his radio controlled model airplanes, and we talked around the world from his ham radio station in his home. It was a wonderful week for both of us.

What neither of us realized during that week was that it would be the last time we would be together. A couple of weeks later my brother was working on his beautiful touring motorcycle in his well-equipped shop when he suffered a massive heart attack and died.

Various times I have ministered to a family who had a loved one die suddenly with unresolved anger between them. The bitterness of death was compounded

by the unresolved issues that had separated them in life. How important to resolve arguments while everyone is here to participate in the necessary discussions.

Our sorrow can be diminished if our loved one leaves us without any anger or hatred existing between us. No wonder the Bible tells us, Ephesians 4:26 (NIV) “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry...”

One sin is to go to bed with unresolved anger between you and someone else.

Anger that is more than a few hours old is sin. Consider well with whom you disagree and seek as far as possible to resolve the matter today. Don't go to bed without seeking reconciliation. This is the godly way to live.

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