

# **The Gloat Glut**

## **“Learning to Treat Others Better”**

### **I. SCRIPTURE**

**“But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of [their] distress.”<sup>1</sup> (Obad. 1:12).**

### **II. BACKGROUND**

**Today we are blessed that our children will join us to hear today’s message. And so, I would like to begin by addressing our children, whom I love and have come to know a little bit better during the course of our first school year together. Believe it or not, I can relate to each one in one way or another, and I am learning from each of them, as well. First, there is Edwin.**

**Edwin is the eldest student in our School right now. Like Edwin, I grew up as the middle child in my family. I had an older brother and younger sister; Edwin has an older sister and a younger brother. His younger brother is also in our School. You know, it’s pretty tough growing up as a middle child. Right Edwin? My older brother was 4 and a half years older than me; my sister was a year and a half younger. My dad was very proud to have a son as his first born and he was hoping to have a girl the second time around. Well, he got me instead. But God did bless him with a girl on the third try: my beautiful and bright younger sister Judie.**

**Troy is the youngest student in our School right now. And like Troy, I also have my older brother. When I was growing up, I wanted to be with my older brother all the time. I always wanted to do the same things that he did. That was a little awkward, though, as he was quite a bit older than me, and my dad had to constantly remind me that “no, you can’t do the same things as your brother.” “No, you can’t go out with him and spend time with his friends, because they’re doing things that you are just way too young to do.” But yet, being the stubborn younger brother that I was, I would persist that I wasn’t too young... I could be just like him, and was capable of doing exactly the same things that he did.**

---

**1. Obad. 1:12; Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *ESV*.**

And so now there is Rica, who is the youngest among all her sisters, who like me, wants to hang around them and do the same things that they do. But, the next one up in age is nine (9) years older, followed by the next who is twelve (12) years older. But the one thing that I notice with our children, is that their older siblings seem to treat them a little bit better than I feel that my older brother used to treat me... at least as he treated me at first. But I want to be fair, so let's try to look at our relationship from his point of view.

He was this pretty handsome (bluish eyed, brown hair) guy, who was very popular in school, and who had a lot of friends. And then there was his snotty-nose, much younger kid brother, who always wanted to hang around him, particularly when he was hanging out, being cool with his friends. Imagine that you're a sophomore in high school, the class president, very popular, pretty good at playing sports, and having all the other popular kids and the pretty girls wanting to hang around you. And then, here's comes this young, 7th grade twerp, your nerdish kid brother, who keeps coming up and trying to interfere with your coolness... intruding into your circle of friends. And so, it's only natural that his and his cool friends' defenses are up.

And as I would usually do, I said or did something silly or insignificant, to which my brother would say something like this about me, "You see! I told you he's a total jerk!" Then they would all laugh at me. It was as if he and his cool friends were getting some kind of satisfaction, delight even out of my ineptness, my being clumsy, my saying the wrong thing. It seemed to me something like that he... and his team, all eleven players, had just won the Superbowl with those comments! "Yeah!" it seemed he thought, "we scored again!" And, after making score after score against the younger, snotty nose, nerdish twerp of a brother – a team of just the a single disadvantaged player, they would be look at me and my losing situation every time with malicious satisfaction... with gratification and delight even... enjoying my embarrassment, my misfortune. And so, we now have the definition of today's message about gloating.

### III. GLOATING

To gloat, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is to "to observe or think about something with triumphant and often malicious satisfaction, gratification, or delight." For example, to "gloat over an enemy's misfortune."<sup>2</sup>

---

2. Merriam-Webster, s.v. "gloat," accessed April 3, 2021, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/gloat>.

Today's scripture is about gloating. It comes from the book of Obadiah: the smallest book in the Old Testament. Let's read it together. It says, "But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of [their] distress." (Obad. 1:12). And today's scripture is about a fight that started between two (2) brothers.

#### IV. THE GLOAT GLUT

How many of you fought with your brother or sister growing up? You may recall some of those battles between you and your brother or sister when you were younger, and even still after 30, 40, 50, years. Right? But, despite the occasional conflicts, arguments, and hurt feelings between you and your siblings, deep down you still love each other, don't you? And you're there for each other. (Even today, after my brother and I patched up some of our differences a couple years after the story I recounted, we have become best friends. Explain, the circumstances, if time.) This, however, was not the case between two (2) brothers in the Old Testament: Jacob and Esau, the sons of Isaac, later "Israel", and the grandsons of Abraham.

They were twins. The rivalry between them began even before they were even born. The Bible says that "the babies struggled together within their mother's womb." (Gen. 25:22). Esau was the oldest, being first to be born, and as the oldest was in line to receive the birthright passed down from the dad: the chief portion of the inheritance together with all the family perks that went along with it. But even more important, Esau would have also received the covenant promise passed down from his grandfather Abraham.<sup>3</sup> And then you remember the story of what happened...

In Genesis 25:27-34, we read that Esau being famish while working out in the field one day and thinking he was about to starve to death, sold his birthright to his brother Jacob for a bowl of stew. Needless to say, this intensified the rivalry between these two brothers making them bitter enemies. Jacob, through some trickery, received the birthright and blessing from his dad Isaac that was intended for Esau." (You can read about this in Genesis 27.)<sup>4</sup>

Both brothers eventually married and went their separate ways forming two nations. The descendants of Jacob formed the nation of Israel, while Esau's descendants

---

3. Fred Sigle, Obadiah: Pride Goes Before Destruction, Sermon Central (Aug. 25, 2016), accessed April 3, 2021, <https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/obadiah-pride-goes-before-destruction-fred-sigle-sermon-on-obadiah-203652>.

4. Sigle.

formed the nation of Edom. And so, the conflict that had started with these two (2) brothers, continued with these two nations. And now we fast forward a little over 1,000 years and we come to the prophecy of Obadiah — the shortest book in the Old Testament – written approximately around 840-845 BC. After Esau (whose name means “red”) had despised his birthright and after having driven out the Horites (Gen. 14:6), he settled between the Gulf of Akaba and the Dead Sea. Here lies a range of precipitous red sandstone heights, known as Mount Seir. Here, he occupied the whole of the mountain (Deut. 2:12). The capital city Sela, or Petra (meaning “Rock”) was a city unique of its kind amid the works of man.<sup>5</sup>

Perched like an eagle’s nest (Obad. 1:4) amid inaccessible mountain fastnesses, the dwellings were mostly caves, hewn out of the soft rock (Obad. 1:3, 6), and placed where you could scarce imagine a human foot could climb. And it was against this people that the prophecy of the unknown prophet Obadiah (whose name means “a worshipper of Yahweh” and “Yahweh’s servant”) was directed.<sup>6</sup>

To Israel, YAHUAH [God] had commanded (Deut. 23:7), “Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother.” But Edom had shown an implacable hatred to Israel from the time that he refused him a passage through his country on the way from Egypt to Canaan (Nu 20:14–21) to the day of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans, when Edom malignantly cried “Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!” (Ps. 137:7). As so for his pride and cruel hatred, the total destruction of Edom was decreed (Obad. 1:3, 4, 10). The people were driven from their rocky home five years after the destruction of Jerusalem, when Nebuchadnezzar, passing down the valley of Arabah, which formed the military road to Egypt, crushed the Edomites. They lost their existence as a nation about a century and a half B.C., and their name perished at the capture of Jerusalem by the Romans. As Obadiah foretold, “as you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head”. (Obad. 1:15).<sup>7</sup>

## V. BREAKING THE TREND – TREATING OTHERS BETTER

Today, we are no better than the archers who are shooting the arrows in the back of the man who is pictured here on today’s bulletin. If you only knew him, you see. “He’s a total jerk!” We laugh at him as he walks away. “He’s inept!”

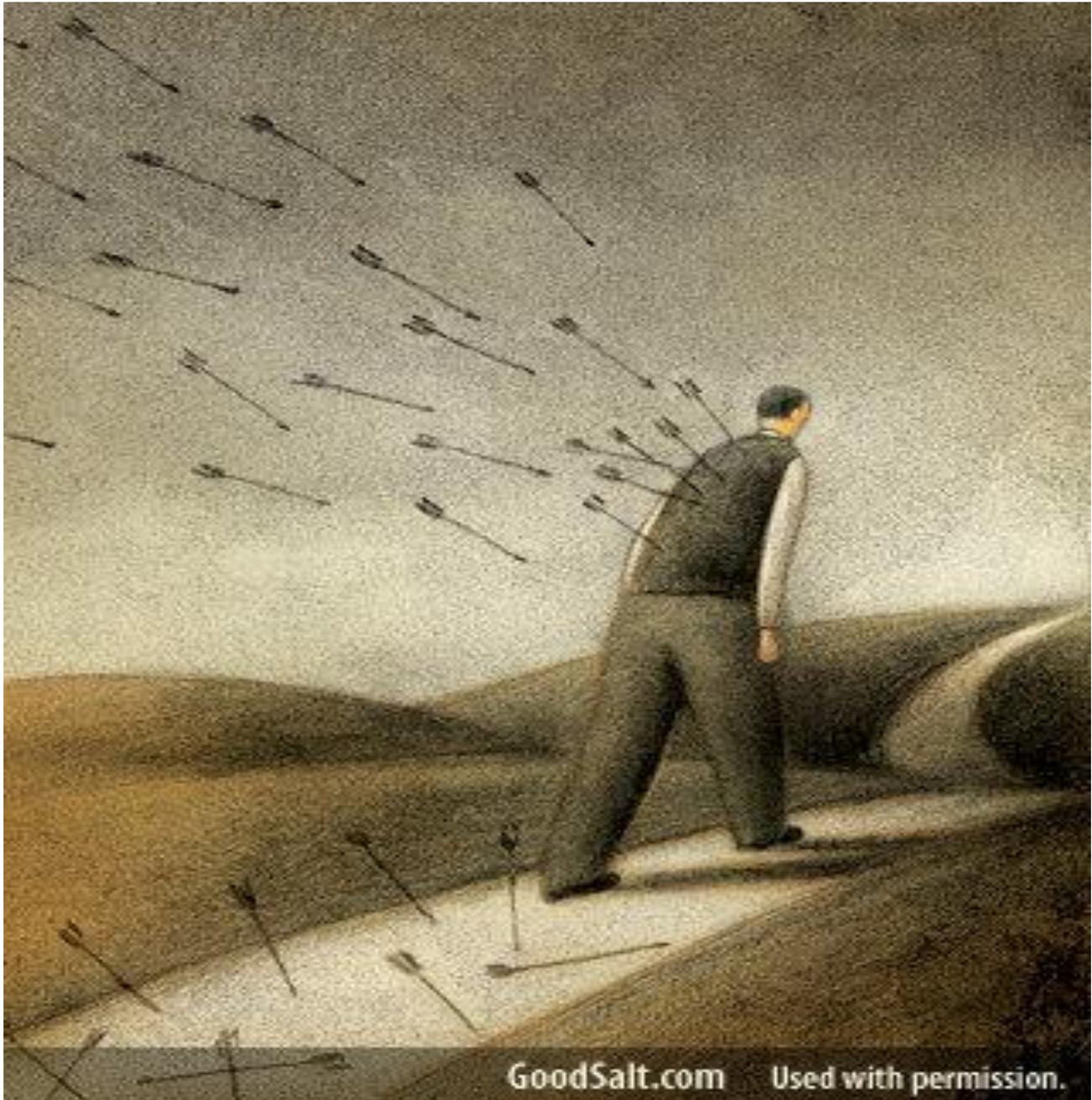
---

5. Sigle.

6. A.M. Hodgkin, *Christ in All the Scriptures*. 1989 ed., s.v. “Obadiah”, accessed April 3, 2021, <http://www.thebookwurm.com/amh-obad.htm>.

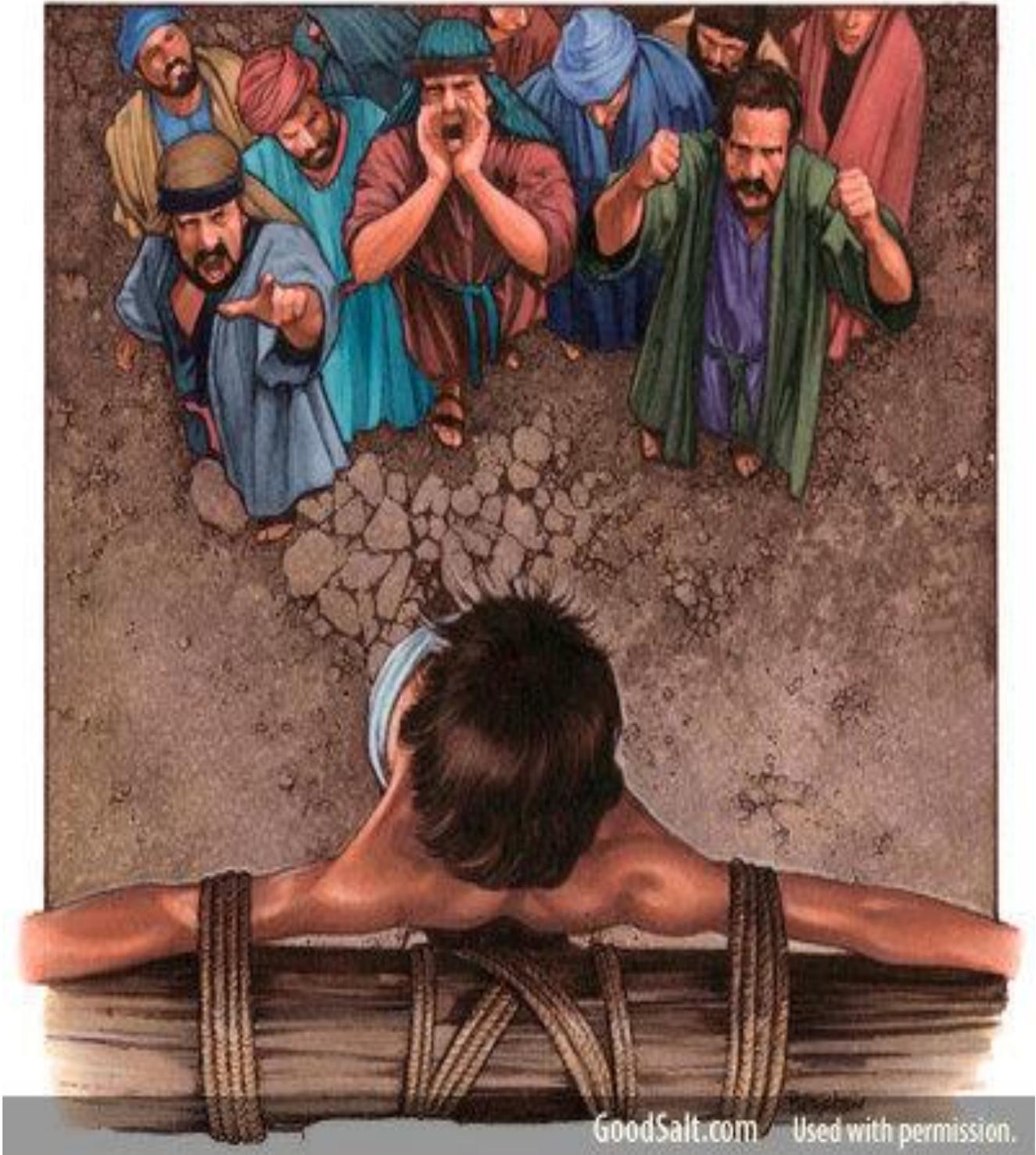
7. Hodgkin.

**(Review today's bulletin photo.)**



**We say, “He isn’t cool like us. He just doesn’t fit in.” And with malicious satisfaction, with gratification and delight even, over his misfortune, we laugh at him in his miserly one more time. You see, we don’t want him around, because if we had to think about it, then we would have to admit that although he’s is a snotty nose, bothersome person ... he is nevertheless my brother in Christ, a person that YAHUSHA [Jesus] died for. Well, let’s take a minute to look at another picture.**

**VI. GLOATING OVER YAHUSHA [Jesus]**



**Yes, HA'MASHIACH [Christ] did die even for those who aren't worthy; Yes, Christ died for those who gloated over Him, satisfied seeing Him in His despair, His misfortune...**

## VII. OVERCOMING OUR GLOAT GLUT – OUR NEW LIFE

**“I therefore, a prisoner for YAHUAH [the LORD], urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit [RUACH] in the bond of peace. There is one body and one RUACH [Spirit] — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— LORD [YAHUAH], one faith, one baptism, one God [YAH] and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph. 4:1-6).**

**“Now this I say and testify in the LORD [YAHUAH], that you must no longer walk as [the other people] do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God [YAHUAH] because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous [toward others] and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. that is not the way you learned Christ [HAMASHIACH]! —assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus [YAHUSHA], to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit [ruach] of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God [YAH] in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:17-24).**

**“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace [elegance, courteous goodwill] to those who hear. And do not grieve the RUACH HAQADASH [Holy Spirit] of YAHUAH [God], by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God [YAHUAH] in Christ [MASHIACH] forgave you.” (Eph. 4:25,29-32).**

**And so, dear brothers and sisters in MESSIAH [Christ], today and this weekend, as we consider the sacrifice that our Savior made – even the gloating of other – because of His great love for you and me, let us also strive to love all others, including those who seem despicable to us, as He truly loved us despite all our own sins and shortcomings.**

**Amen.**