

## Dishonor - by Lorelei Pepe

For a few years, I served on the Board of Directors where I lived in a co-op. I had quite a vested interest in it and all went well. Being Vice-president, I took my volunteer job seriously. I loved to walk the property and enjoy the backyard gardens too. I got to know a lot of residents and they had respect for me. I believed to do everything according to our Rules and Regulations.

However, we had a huge construction, siding project of which our President commanded but needed board approval on all expenses. However, he went over and above in spending huge amounts of money without consulting the board. He became great friends with the contractor and before we knew it he had spent over \$60,000 of the co-op money. When I questioned him, he turned on me to cover up in a very defensive, abusive and arrogant manner. Rather than be confronted, he then resigned and sent a scathing message to the board blaming me. He wanted to dishonor my reputation. Crushed, I wanted to retaliate, but took it to God.

I prayed day and night for God to handle it, hoping he would help me endure and also helping others to realize that I was truthful and honest.

In Matthew 22:22-23, the religious leaders attacked Jesus in front of the crowds with a series of questions to dishonor him. Jesus replied with amazing wisdom and kept his composure. The religious leaders failed in their attempt to shame and discredit him.

So I carry on, trying to be like Jesus, which is a huge task. But, I look to him to retaliate on my behalf, as I have kept silent. It is not easy. I am trying to rise above this situation and these problems here on earth. I try and look up realizing that Jesus will handle this in his own time, not mine. I know who is in control!

Deuteronomy 32:35- "avenge I will, it is mine to repay. In due time their foot will slip, their day of disaster near".

Deuteronomy 31:8 "the Lord is the one who is going ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not desert you or abandon you. Do not fear and do not be dismayed".