

# RETALIATION

***“ You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.” (Mt. 5:38-39)***

Resentment, bitterness and hurt egos are main catalysts for vengeance. These feelings make men and women seek retaliation and forget about the teachings of our Lord. One is expected to become angry when he is wronged as anger is a very human reaction, but we must not linger in it nor make it a reason to retaliate at the person who caused us pain. When we allow this anger to turn to vengeance then evil prevails and God's love and peace no longer dwell in our hearts.

We continue to agonize over the wrongdoing and we are troubled and distressed. We think retaliation will solve this feeling of anguish but clearly, Jesus, in the Gospel of Matthew 5 verses 38-42, tells us to be kind, understanding, compassionate and forgiving to those who have inflicted pain in our lives. So let us instead settle our differences through dialogue and accept each other's failures, forgive one another and strive to live in peace and harmony.

It is not our place to judge our enemies, but we leave it up to our Heavenly Father who knows and sees all things. As disciples of Christ, we are to forgive those who trespass against us. This is very difficult! But if we truly love God and believe in His teachings, then we must not retaliate but rather pray for the Holy Spirit to help us heal our hurts and woundedness.

We must constantly pray for a forgiving heart by praying for those who hurt us, and asking God to bless them anyway. This is the only way we can win our battle over the hurts and pain. When we forgive as we have been forgiven, we are restored in peace and we remain safe in His presence. Let us always remember that it is only by living our Lord's passion every moment of our life that we become victorious in defeating the evils, the hurts and trials. When people see the goodness of our hearts, our ways of treating people who hurt us with humility and understanding, they in turn would be led to goodness because they had witnessed the joy and peace of Jesus in our actions. God's graces will not only flow in us but will also flow to those around us as we reflect our Lord's love and compassion to them.

Heaven awaits all those who obey His commandments.