

April 4, 2023

1 Pt. 3:9-12 *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."* (NIV)

Sometimes it seems that we as Christians are asked to do some very difficult things. Here we read an admonition from Peter to not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. This sounds vaguely familiar doesn't it? Well I'm sure that this teaching came from the Lord Jesus Himself. In fact, you may recall His words in **Mt. 5:38-40** *You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.* (NIV) Now our sinful nature wants to react instead of respond. If someone wrongs us, we tend to want to get back at them. But when you look at the life of Jesus, you will only see Him caring about the ones who hurt Him. In fact, recall the words of the Savior on the cross. He had been beaten, spit upon, beard ripped out, scourged with a 'cat of nine.' He was impaled upon a splintery cross, having to push up on the feet that had been nailed through and through just to get a breath of air. And He then said this: ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*** (NIV)

The LORD calls us to be different than those who don't know Him. We are to have an attitude of gratitude. We are to see things from His perspective. We must remember that most people are acting out their selfishness and sinful nature because they have not yet been touched by the love of God. And so we are to be that word of love; that touch that says you are worth something to the Father. Let's live out His love to those around us and show them that He has done everything for them.

Dear LORD, help us to see people from Your perspective. Even though they can be mean and selfish and hurtful, You still were willing to pay for their sins just like You paid for ours. Help us to love those that are not so lovable. In Jesus Name, Amen