

## Do Not Retaliate

Date : 3/36/2023

Key Scriptures : Matthew 5:38-48

# LECTIO DIVINA/ STUDY GUIDE

## Reading & Prayer

### Do Not Retaliate

**38 You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” 39 But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”**

**43 You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” 44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even tax collectors do the same? 47 If you only greet your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

### Key Words

*lex talionis:*

law of kind, law of equal retribution

ἀντιστῆναι - antistanai:

do not resist, do not retaliate



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### start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

#### reading #1

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

*What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.*

### start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

**What do you think the human heart is looking for in retaliation or retribution? Is it justice? peace? revenge?**

Maybe our form of retaliation is not quite "eye for eye" but what about "look for look" or "word for word"? How should followers of Jesus think about these ways of "communicating" or seeking equal harm?

**What other ways do we seek justice in our lives?**

Peter tells us about Jesus' trust in the Father saying amidst His persecution, "He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly." (1 Peter 2:23). **What does it mean to trust God as judge?**

### start sharing. engage it with your story

*What specific situation in your life relates? Write down or pray.*

*What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?*

Instead of retaliation, Peter asks the Church to give a blessing (εὐλογέω). **How can you actively do this in your life?**

Like Ignatius who said (paraphrased) about his Roman captors, "the more good I did, the worse they treated me," **How do we continue to practice grace and mercy toward an unresponsive neighbor?**

### start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

*What is Jesus' personal invitation to you from the scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks.*

### start praying. be bold and pray with power

prayer requests: