

Title: From Hate to Harmony: How to Resist Retaliation

Text: Matthew 5:38-42

"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. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Romans 12:17-18

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Target: Living in peace and harmony happens when we see people through the lens of the gospel. We resist retaliation when we:

I. Adjust Our Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:18

"So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Isaiah 55:8

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, declares the Lord."

II. Align Our Priorities

Matthew 6:33

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

III. Acknowledge God's Presence

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Take Away: When your faith is your filter, you fight against the fleshly desire to retaliate! *"Be the change you want to see in the world" – Gandhi*