

The Need to  
*Forgive or Retaliate*

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1. There is a code of ethics for the disciples and a standard of conduct for all believers.

2. Contrast Kingdom values - contrast with what is eternal with what is temporary.

3. Contrast the superficial faith of the religious with the real faith that Christ demands from us.

4. Show how the Old Testament expectations will be fulfilled in the new Kingdom.

*My beloved friends, if you see a believer who is overtaken with a fault, may the one who overflows with the Spirit seek to restore him. Win him over with gentle words, which will open his heart to you and will keep you from exalting yourself over him.*

*Galatians 6:1 TPT*

*There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. but if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you . . .*

*James 2:13 NLT*

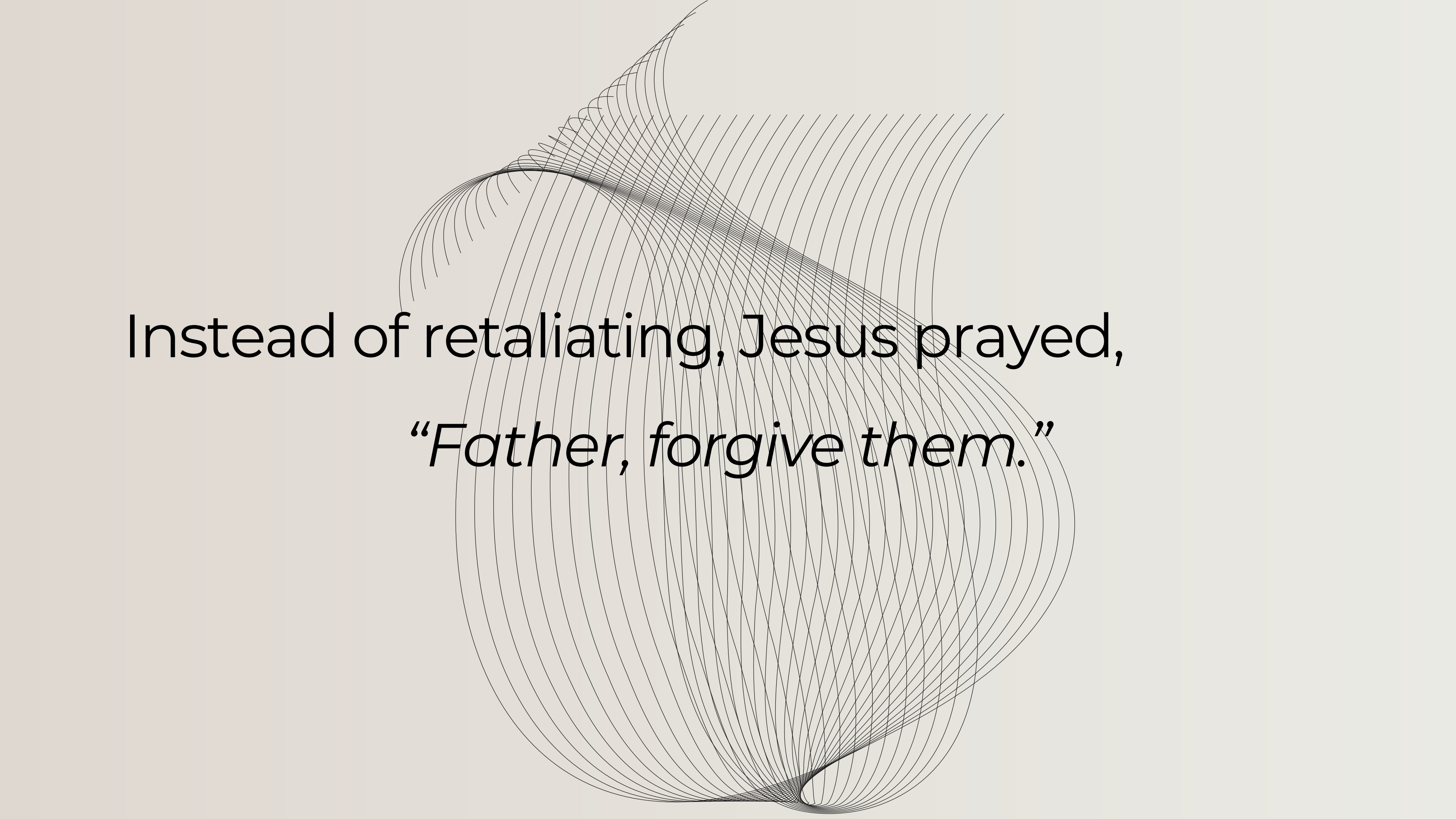
*“Pursue peace with all men.”*

*Hebrews 12:14*

*“Glory to God in highest heaven, and  
peace on earth to those with whom God  
is pleased.”*

*Luke 2:14 NLT*

You see, the problem with the dog was not aggression, but fear because it had been wounded and her trust had been disconnected.



Instead of retaliating, Jesus prayed,  
*“Father, forgive them.”*



“It is His kindness, the Scriptures say, that  
lead us to repentance.”

ROMANS 2:4



“Love suffers long.”

*1 Corinthians 13:4 NKJV*

*Our understanding of God's Word should not be shaped by our political views - rather, it should be shaped by God's Word.*

*“Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”*

*John 18:11*

*“God demonstrates His love toward us in that while we were still sinners -while we were still opposed to Him, hostile toward Him, insulting Him, and wishing Him dead - Christ died for us.”*

ROMANS 5:8

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When the hatred of humanity was directed  
toward Jesus, He had every right to retaliate.

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*“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

PROVERBS 15:1 NKJV

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Before our hearts can be warmed by the  
idea of such radical reconciliation and  
peace, they must first be melted and  
softened

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# REPENT

It is *only* God's kindness  
that causes us to repent

*“And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.”*

JOHN 5:9 ESV

*“He said this man’s blindness ‘happened  
so that the works of God might be  
displayed in him.’”*

JOHN 9:3



I don't need to wait on others to do anything or place blame on them.

That won't do any good.

I simply must obey whatever God is asking of me right now and the healing in my heart happens.



I must separate my healing from others' repentance or lack thereof, and my ability to heal cannot be conditional on them wanting my forgiveness.

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Focus on protecting your peace.

Focus on submitting your heart to the  
authority of God's Word.

Focus your mind on Christ & refuse to  
have a victim's mindset

Let God fight your battles.

Saint Francis prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring love.

Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.

Where there is discord, let me bring union.

Where there is error, let me bring truth.

Where there is error, let me bring truth.

Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.

Where there is despair, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.

Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

O Master, let me not seek as much  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love,

for it is in giving that one receives,  
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.