

Responding to Evil

Rom. 12:17-21



Evil exists

...even here in America!

Los Angeles Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001

**TERRORISTS ATTACK
NEW YORK, PENTAGON**

Thousands Dead, Injured as Hijacked U.S. Airliner
Ram Targets; World Trade Center Is Destroyed



Tragedy: Assault on
Manhattan in chaos
Three of the flights
en route to L.A., on
San Francisco. Pres
Bush puts military o
highest alert, closes
borders and vows to
find those responsibl

By GERALDINE BAUM
and MAGGIE FARLEY
Special to the Times

NEW YORK Terrorists
struck at the precision stroke
of America's wealth and might
Tuesday, flying hijacked airliners
into the World Trade Center and
the Pentagon, killing and injuring
thousands of people.

As a horrid scene watched
on television, the twin towers of
the World Trade Center in lower
Manhattan collapsed into flaming
rubble after two Boeing 767s
crashed into upper stories. A
third airliner, a Boeing 757, was
seen

Absent God,
evil evokes a response:

Vengeance

Self-defense

Passive resistance

Escape

Learned helplessness



God-evoked response

The Godly don't repay evil for evil

- Paul's instructions
 - Rom. 12:17a
 - I Th. 5:15
- Solomon's wisdom
 - Prov. 20:22
- Jesus
 - Mt. 5:39
- Peter
 - I Pe. 3:9

The Godly respond with good

- Paul,
 - Rom 12:17b-10
 - We regard good things
 - We can seek to live peaceably
- Law of Moses
 - Ex. 23:4-5
- David's example with Saul
 - I Sam. 24:7

Vengeance is God's

- A divine prerogative, Rom. 12:19
- He administers it justly, Nah. 1:1-8
 - He is slow to anger
 - He knows the hearts of men
- He has the tools to administer vengeance
 - Governments, Rom. 13:1-4; I Pe. 2:13-14
 - He gives men up to depravity, Rom 1:18-32
 - He will come in flaming fire, II Thess. 1:7-9

Thankfully, not mine

- My wrath does not produce the righteousness of God, Jas, 1:19-20
- My wrath is often just a work of the flesh, Ga. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8



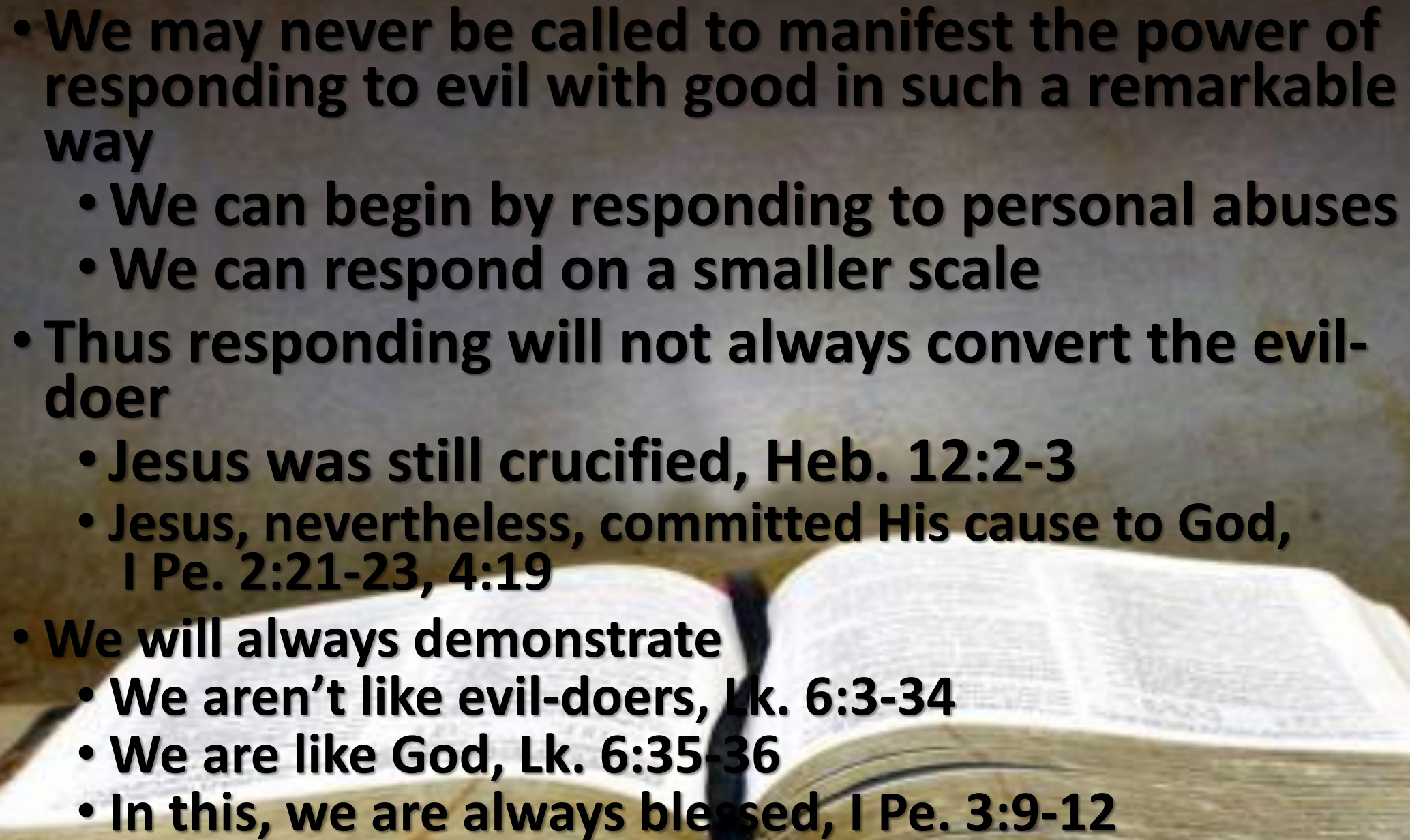
Victory over evil is likely (though not assured in this life)

**Goal is to overcome evil,
Rom 12:21**

- **The defender or passive resister convinces the evil-doer that “might makes right”**
- **Evasion or learned helplessness confirms the evil-doer’s assessment that we are cowardly or weak**

By active good will

- **This is how God changed the world, Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 2:4; I Pe. 2:21-25**
- **Jesus provides the example**
 - **Many turned from evil faced with sacrificial love**
 - **We can walk in His steps**

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- An open book with text overlaid on it. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a blurred image of the book's pages and cover.
- We may never be called to manifest the power of responding to evil with good in such a remarkable way
 - We can begin by responding to personal abuses
 - We can respond on a smaller scale
 - Thus responding will not always convert the evil-doer
 - Jesus was still crucified, Heb. 12:2-3
 - Jesus, nevertheless, committed His cause to God, I Pe. 2:21-23, 4:19
 - We will always demonstrate
 - We aren't like evil-doers, Lk. 6:3-34
 - We are like God, Lk. 6:35-36
 - In this, we are always blessed, I Pe. 3:9-12

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Prov. 25:21-22

Ps. 130:9-11

