

Responding to Evil

Romans 12: 17-21



Evil Exists

...even here in America!



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
 - *Romans 12:17a*
 - *I Thessalonians 5:15*
- Solomon's wisdom
 - *Proverbs 20:22*
- Jesus
 - *Matthew 5:39*
- Peter
 - *I Peter 3:9*

The Godly respond with good

- Paul
 - *Romans 12:17b - 10*
 - We regard good things
 - We can seek to live peaceably
- Law of Moses
 - *Exodus 23:4 - 5*
- David's example with Saul
 - *I Samuel 24:7*

Vengeance is God's

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

Thankfully, not mine

- My wrath does not produce the righteousness of God,
James 1:19-20
- My wrath is often just a work of the flesh,
Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8

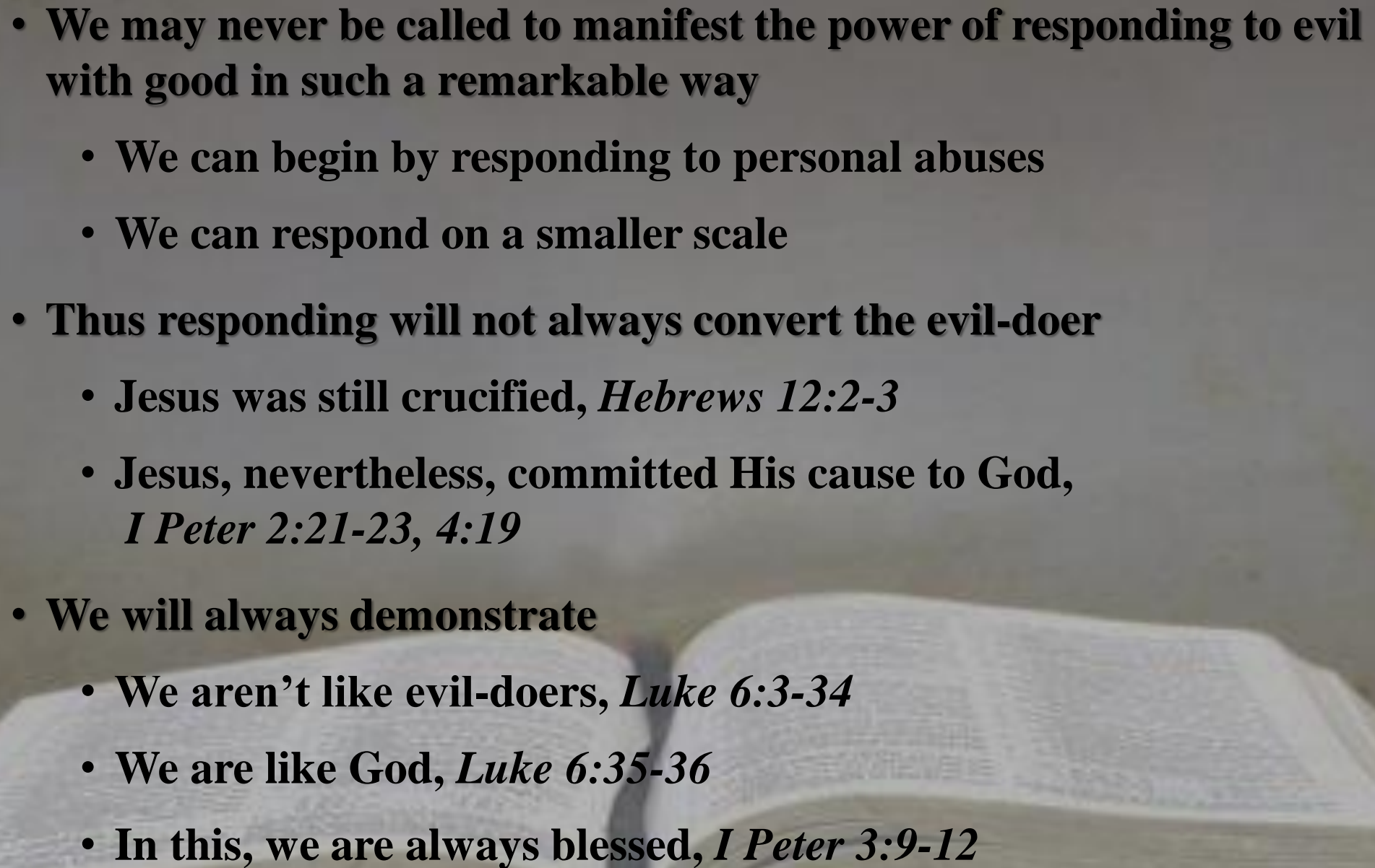
Victory over evil is likely (though not assured in this life)

**Goal is to overcome evil,
*Romans 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, *Romans 5:8; John 3:16; Romans 2:4; I Peter 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. The text is a bulleted list about responding to evil. The background is a soft-focus image of an open book with yellowed pages.
- 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, *Hebrews 12:2-3*
 - Jesus, nevertheless, committed His cause to God, *I Peter 2:21-23, 4:19*
 - We will always demonstrate
 - We aren't like evil-doers, *Luke 6:3-34*
 - We are like God, *Luke 6:35-36*
 - In this, we are always blessed, *I Peter 3:9-12*

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Proverbs 25: 21-22

Psalms 130: 9-11

