

28.27cc Sermon on the Mount—“You Have Heard It Said . . . But I Say,” Part 2: “Eye for Eye; Love Your Enemies” (Matthew 5:38–48; Luke 6:27–36)

(Although the Matthew and Luke sermons were probably given at different times, because of the similarity of the passages, they are combined here.)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- On gold paper write “The Golden Rule” —“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Luke 6:31). (This is how it is usually paraphrased.) Display this in the classroom after this lesson.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Publicans*: tax collectors
- *The Golden Rule*: “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise” (Luke 6:31).
- *perfect*: complete; full of integrity; no human can be perfect in the moral sense that Jesus is perfect

Scripture: (ESV)

Matthew 5:38 “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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would 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 makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Luke 6:27 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. 31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

32 “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Introduction/Review:

In the Sermon on the Mount, after He had presented the beatitudes and after He had talked about being salt and light and His fulfilling of the whole law, Jesus preached a section on “You have heard, but I say to you.”

The points of our last lesson dealt with the following:

You have heard . . . (What the scribes and Pharisees said)	But I say unto you . . . (What Jesus said)
You shall not murder.	“Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment,” <i>etc.</i> . . . therefore, leave your gift at the altar, be reconciled.”
You shall not commit adultery.	“Whoever looks at a woman to lust . . . has already committed adultery. . . . If your right eye (right hand) offends, cast it from you.
Give a certificate of divorce.	There is no good reason for divorce.
Do not swear falsely.	Swear not at all.

Story:

Today’s lesson deals with two more “You-have-heard-but-I-say” items.

No evil for evil

The next “you-have-heard” statement is difficult to practice. [Have a student read Matthew 5:38–42: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, ‘Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.’”]

Now, the law commanded, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” In other words, a judge could say that if someone purposely broke another person’s tooth, his punishment should be to have his own tooth broken. However, Jesus’ “But-I-say-unto-you” proclamation states, “Don’t pay back evil for evil”—don’t take revenge.

Here is Jesus’ first example of not taking revenge: “If someone hits you on the right cheek, allow him to hit you also on the left cheek.” Not hitting back might result in some trouble for you, but it is what Jesus said to do. Some people teach their children, “If a kid hits you, hit him back; that way he’ll know you are stronger than he is, and he won’t hit you again.” Actually, this has worked for some people, but what did Jesus say to do? [Not hit back.]*

The next example has to do with clothing: “If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.” In Jesus’ day (and even today in Middle Eastern countries) ✓people wore two garments—an inner one, called a *tunic* or *coat* that reached from the neck to the knees or ankles and had sleeves, and an outer one, called a *cloak* or *mantle* that was 7 1/2 to 9 feet square and was wrapped around the body. It was thrown off when a person worked, and it could also be used as a blanket (Barnes in Online Bible).

Jesus said that if someone took another person to court and the settlement meant the other man had to give up his cloak (his outer garment), the one who lost his cloak should also give up his tunic. There was no sense in making a big scene about such a small thing as a cloak.

“If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” This example about going two miles (4000 footsteps) instead of one mile (2000 footsteps) (Wikipedia) had to do with a custom of that day by which a king’s servant could force someone to accompany him for a certain distance. Rather than argue with the servant and seek revenge, Jesus said to go out of one’s way—even walking twice as far as asked—showing kindness.

A helpful verse on the topic of revenge is Romans 12:19—“Never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the

wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” It is not up to us to pay back; God, in His time, will do a great job of justly paying back.**

Jesus also said to give money to people who ask for it, whether it be as a gift or a loan. ✓This admonition is difficult, especially in our day when people ask for money and use it to support addictions, not to meet the needs of their families. Jesus said to give. This is a principle found throughout the Bible.***

Love your enemies

We have one last “you-have-heard” statement: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’”

The Bible does not say, “Hate your enemy.” This is an idea the Jews had invented. If they were to love their neighbor, they assumed they could do the opposite—hate their enemy. God had never said this.

“But,” Jesus said, “I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

[Show visual aid found at the end of this lesson.] ✓Here are two kinds of love: (1) Loving while approving the conduct of the person loved. (2) Caring for a person even though one cannot approve of that person’s conduct.

✓Jesus gives at least two reasons why He wants Christians to love their enemies, probably with the second kind of love:

1. It shows they resemble their heavenly Father, for He loved us when we were His enemies.
2. If they love only their friends, they have no reward, for they are no better than the worst of people — Publicans and sinners, bullies and thieves.

Be perfect

Then Jesus pronounced another shocker: “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” This command presents some interpretation difficulties. Hearing the mere sound of words, one would think a person could become as perfect as God Himself, but this is morally impossible. However, the meaning of the word *perfect* has other definitions, such as “complete,” “sincere,” and “upright.” These qualities are possible for a believer in Jesus Christ; we can love our enemies as the Father loved us and sent His Son to be our Saviour.

Luke summarizes the concepts of this lesson when he states, “Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:35, 36).

All of this teaching is difficult if not impossible. Only by the grace of God can we do what Jesus tells us.

Another short summary is called the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Luke 6:31). This means we should treat others the way we want them to treat us. That’s a great way to live, and doing so will fulfill Jesus’ charge that our righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees.

*Turning the other cheek “does not, however, prevent our remonstrating firmly, yet mildly, on the injustice of the thing, and insisting that justice should be done us, as is evident from the example of the Saviour himself. See #Joh 18:23” (Gill in Online Bible).

**Of the forty or so references to *vengeance* in the Old Testament, the vast majority of them are about God’s promised vengeance. In fact, sometimes He states He will take vengeance on those who have taken vengeance (e.g., Ezekiel 25:12, 14, 15, 17).

****“Giving . . . is the general rule. It is better to give sometimes to an undeserving person, than to turn away one really necessitous. It is good to be in the habit of giving. . . . It is seldom, perhaps never, good to give to a man that is able to work, #2Th 3:10. To give to such is to encourage laziness, and to support the idle at the expense of the industrious. If such a man is indeed hungry, feed him; if he wants anything farther, give him employment. If a widow, an orphan, a man of misfortune, or a man infirm, lame, or sick, is at your door, never send them away empty. See #Heb 13:2 Mt 25:35–45. So of a poor and needy friend that wishes to borrow. We are not to turn away, or deny him. This deserves, however, some limitation. It must be done in consistency with other duties. To lend to every worthless man, would be to throw away our property, encourage laziness and crime, and ruin our families” (Barnes in Online Bible).

****“We are bound to love our enemies. This is a law of Christianity, original and peculiar. No system but this has required it, and no act of Christian piety is more difficult. None shows more the power of the grace of God; none is more ornamental to the character; none more like God; and none furnishes better evidence of piety. He that can meet a man kindly who is seeking his hurt; who can speak well of one that is perpetually slandering and cursing him; that can pray for a man that abuses, injures, and wounds him; and that can seek heaven for him that wishes his damnation, is in the way to life. This is religion . . . pure like its Source; kind like its Author . . .” (Barnes in Online Bible).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Jesus is God:
He perfectly fulfilled even these difficult matters of godly living: when He was reviled, He reviled not again; He loved us when we were His enemies (Luke 6:35, 36).
- “[G]race is not the vindication of self nor the punishment of a wrong, but the endurance of evil and the triumph of good over it. Christ is speaking of what a Christian has to put up with from the world through which he passes. He is to receive tribulation as the discipline which God sees to be good for his soul; the great spectacle before men and angels—that there are men on this earth who are allowed and rejoice to suffer for Christ, because they have learned to give up their own will, to sacrifice their own rights, and to suffer wrongfully, looking onward to the day when the Lord will own whatever has been their sorrow for His sake, and when all evil shall be judged most solemnly at His appearing and kingdom” (WK Mt.142 in Online Bible).
- People like to excuse bad behavior by saying, “Nobody’s perfect.” Jesus’ slant on this rationalization is, “Be perfect”—do right.
- Jesus gave us Kingdom laws in this lesson. It is easy to disregard them because they are difficult. The charge to turn the other cheek does not discount the danger in some situations, *e.g.*, ongoing abuse, when measures of safety must be employed. However, God’s general law is to love.

Activities:

- Play dough: coat or tunic; tooth; eye
- This internet site, <http://www.sermons4kids.com>, has some good ideas for activities. Type “Matthew 5,” including the quotation marks, to do an on-site search.
- Give a gold or gold-wrapped piece of candy to each student who explains the “Golden Rule.” (Candies wrapped in gold or silver paper are Hershey’s Kisses®, Hershey’s Nuggets®, and Snickers® in a bag.)
- Do a puppet show that teaches loving one’s enemies. A boy and a girl puppet are needed. Print two copies of the script found below (*Celebrate Jesus*, Shining Star Publications, 1998, p 46; ISBN #0-7647-0492-3, by Susan Addington).
- Sing the first and second stanzas of “Jesus Said It on the Mountain” found in Lesson 28.27b or on the Songs page at teachingthebibletochildren.org. A stanza to go with today’s lesson is “Do not pay back when

you're wronged . . . Do to others as you want them to do."

- Caution students not to mention names but silently to think of people whom they consider to be their enemies. Lead in prayer, asking for grace to "turn the other cheek," to give and do more than is expected for that person, and to love that person.
- Review questions: (Game: Have a ruler available. Draw lines on a chalk board or white board that are 1 inch, 2 inches, *etc.*, through 10 inches long. To demonstrate "going the extra mile," a student may double (or add one inch to) the length of a line on the board when a correct answer is given.)
 1. What does "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" mean? [Pay back; vengeance.]
 2. Give one of the examples Jesus gave to show how to react rather than to pay back. [Smiting cheek; giving cloak as well as tunic; going an extra mile.]
 3. Jesus said we are to love whom? [Our enemies.]
 4. Explain one kind of love. [1. Loving while approving conduct; 2. Wishing well for a person while not approving the conduct of that person.]
 5. Explain the other kind of love. [See question 5.]
 6. Who loves his friends? [Anybody—good or bad.]
 7. Who should get even? [Only God.]
 8. What do we call this saying: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"? [The Golden Rule.]
 9. Give one Scriptural definition of *perfect*. [Complete; upright; sincere.]
 10. How is a Christian able to do these seemingly impossible things that Jesus commanded? [Only by the grace of God.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Romans 12:17–19—Repay no one evil for evil. . . . If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
- Review John 1:1–18:
 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
 - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
 - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
 - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
 - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
 - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
 - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
 - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
 - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
 - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Handwork:

- Color the clipart picture found below.

Publicans

Golden Rule

perfect

Two Kinds of Love

(1)

Loving while approving
the conduct of the person
loved.

(2)

Caring for a person even
though we cannot approve
of his or her conduct.

Love Your Enemies

1. It shows you resemble your heavenly Father, for He loved us when we were His enemies.
2. If you love only your friends, you have no reward, for you are no better than the worst of people (Publicans, sinners).

The Golden Rule

“Do unto others as you
would have them do unto
you”

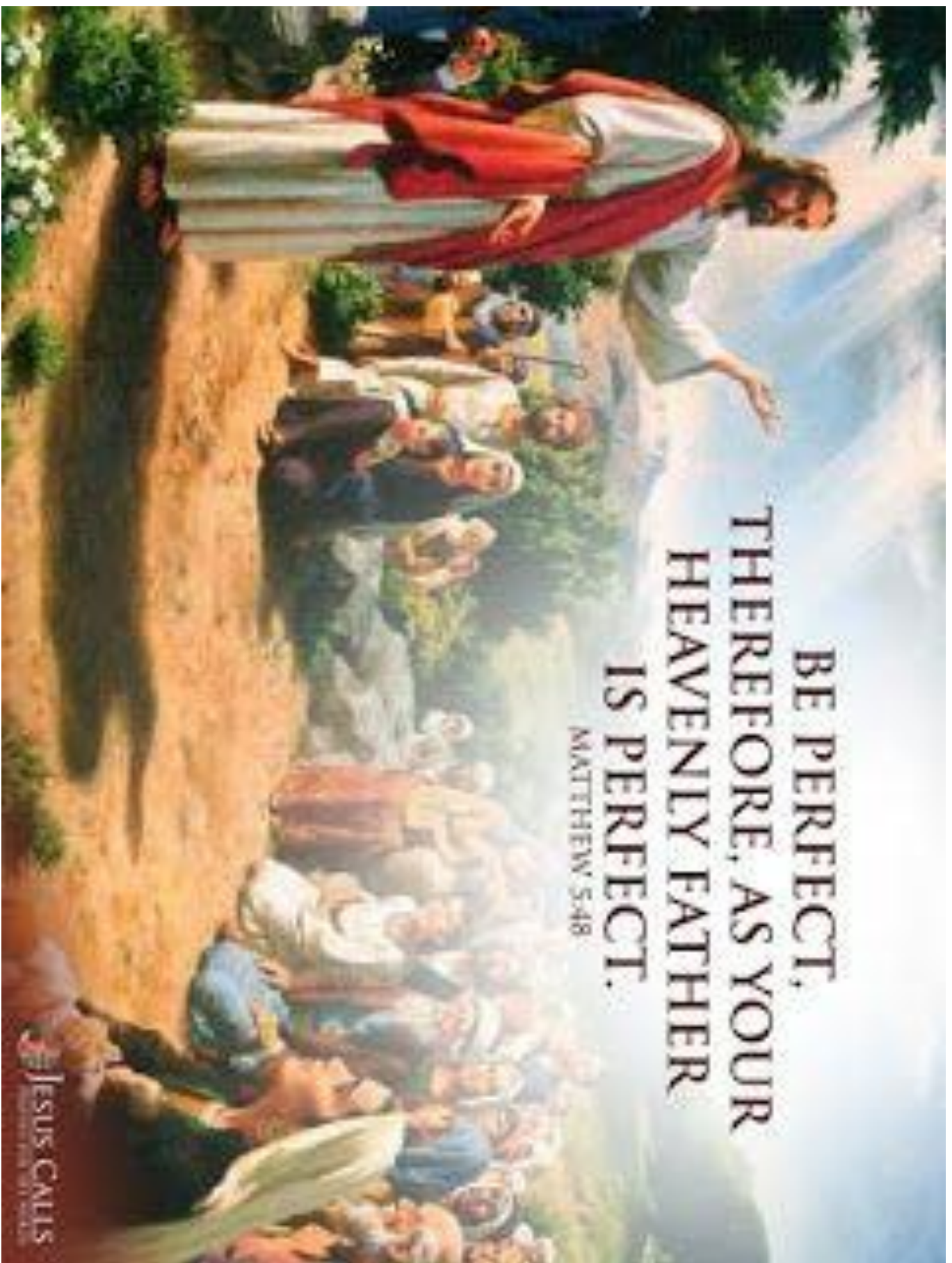
(Luke 6:31).



James Tissot, *The Beatitudes Sermon*, c. 1890, Brooklyn Museum found at Wikipedia



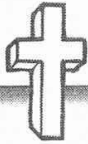
<http://thecaffeinatedleader.com/2018/10/14/turning-the-other-cheek-at-work/>



The
best way
to get
even is to
forgive
as you have
been 
forgiven.

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"Jesus' Love" Puppet Skits



The skit below and the one on page 47 are wonderful ways for children to act out for others some important messages about Jesus and His love for us.

Love Your Enemies

Paul (*alone on stage with book—loose page hanging over the edge*): Boo! Hoo! Boo! Hoo! My new book is ripped. I'll never know what happened at the end. The last page was ripped out by mean Manfred Mason! Boo! Hoo!

Patsy (*popping up head*): Paul, Paul! Are you okay? Are you hurt? Why are you crying? What can I do to help? Oh, no, your book is ripped. It's the new book you got for your birthday, isn't it?

Paul: Yes, Patsy. Mean Manfred Mason grabbed it from me after school today and ripped the last page out. What can I do? I'm so mad! Boo! Hoo! (*suddenly stopping*) I know what I'll do. I'll go and rip up one of his books. That will make me feel so much better. Bye. See you later, Patsy.

Patsy (*with a loud voice*): Paul, wait just a minute. I think you're forgetting something important.

Paul: What am I forgetting? Do I need to take my table tennis paddle, too, and bop him on the head after I rip up his book? Or do I need to bring that fresh pie my mom baked and throw it in his face? Or . . . or . . . I'm so mad! Don't hold me up, Patsy!

Patsy (*speaking softly*): Paul, remember what we heard in Sunday school this week? It was the story of Jesus on the cross asking God to forgive the people who were responsible for killing Him. Remember?

Paul: Yes I do, but what . . .

Patsy (*breaking in abruptly*): And remember that Mr. Jones said that Jesus had also told His followers earlier that they were to love their enemies? He said the Bible teaches that God will take care of giving punishment for wrong deeds.

Paul: Oh, Patsy! Boo! Hoo! Boo! Hoo!

Patsy: Paul, why are you crying now?

Paul: I just remembered that Mr. Jones prayed with me that Manfred Mason would learn more about Jesus from me. I almost messed up this answer to prayer that God must be sending.

Patsy: How's that, Paul?

Paul: I think the way for mean Manfred Mason to see Jesus in me is for me to love him even though he ripped my book. He'll see the forgiveness of Jesus in me.

Patsy: Paul, we've both learned a lesson today. Come on. Let's go to the library and find your book there so you can see what happens on the last page.

