

# Retaliation or Grace

*“But I say to you”*

Matthew 5: 38-48

January 9, 2022

***“He (Father) has delivered us from  
the power of darkness and  
conveyed us into the kingdom  
of the Son of His love”***

**Colossians 1: 13**

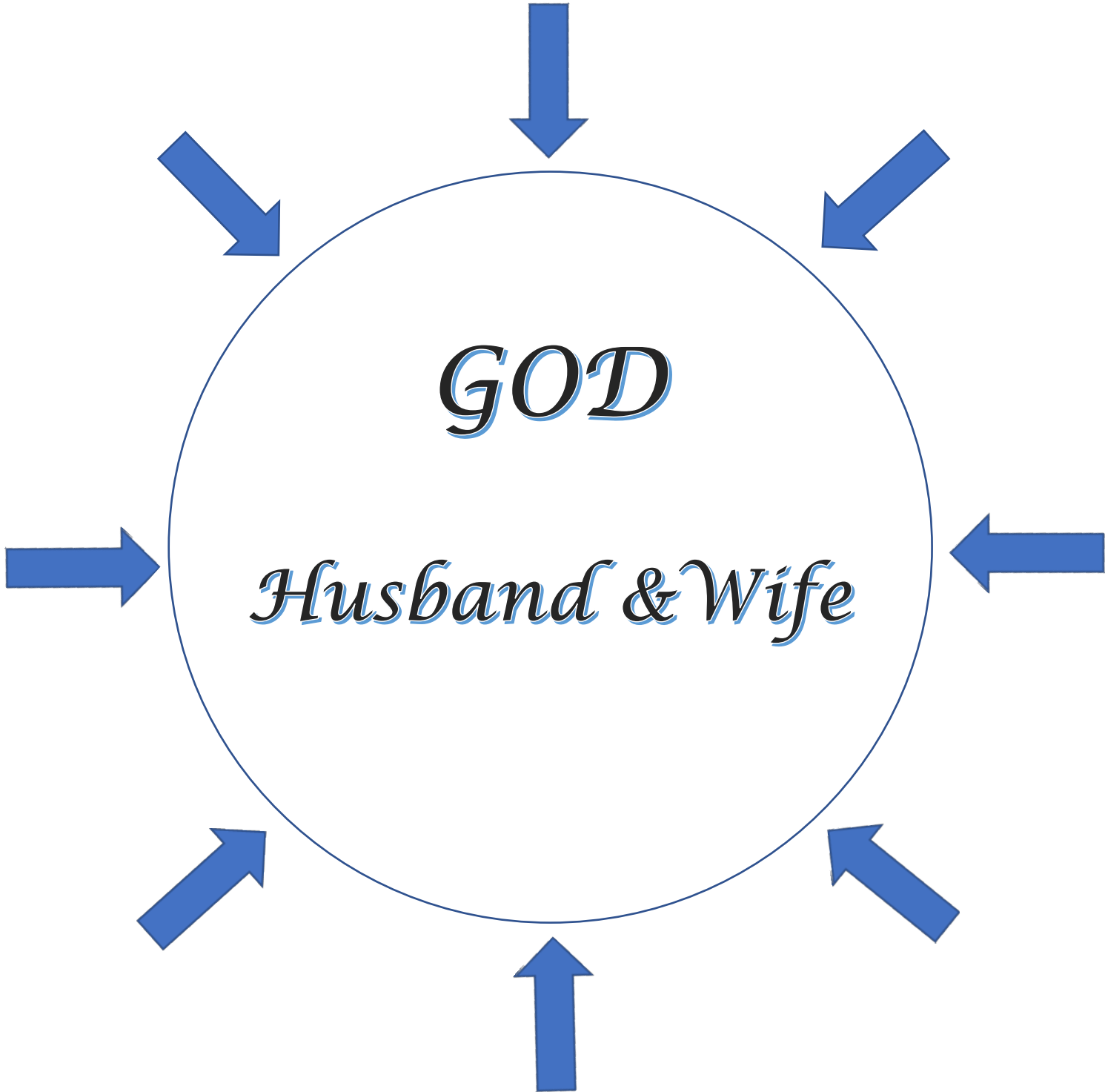
**Delivered = “*ruomai*” = to drag with  
force and violence; to  
draw out of danger**

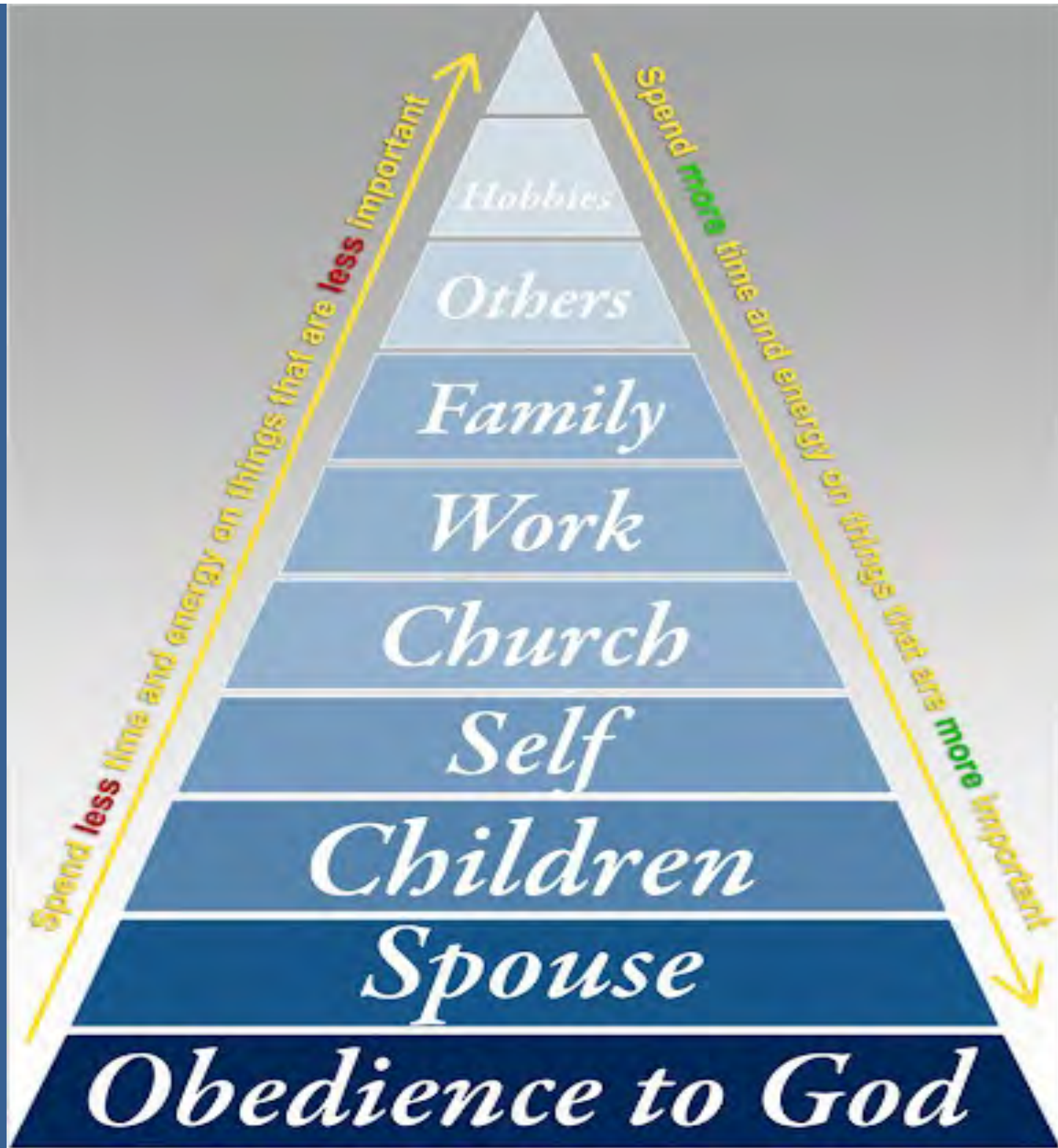
# Jesus

*Husband*

The  
closer  
you and your  
spouse get to  
Jesus, the closer  
you get to each other!

*Wife*







# ***GOD'S STRUCTURE***

## **God's Plan**

**Husband**

**Wife**

**Children**

## **Many Families**

**Wife**

**Children**

**Husband**




## **Consequences**

**Conflict, stress**

**Tension, Confusion**

**Withdrawal,  
Passivity**





THAT THE  
WORLD  
MAY KNOW



**How are we to respond as  
kingdom of heaven Christians to  
unjust treatment?**



Verse 38 - 42

**Not to resist an evil person**

***WHUTTT?!?***

**It seems that Jesus is helping us to  
focus on the Law of Love**  
**Matthew 22: 37-39**

**Love starts with God and flows  
into you, then into your world**

**Not resisting an evil person is  
not easy!**

**It will require the Holy Spirit's  
power to do this!!**

# What Christ is not saying:

- 1) To not protect yourself or your family
- 2) To let yourself be mugged; *just grin and bear it!*
- 3) To not resist an evil person, *ever!*



# What Christ is teaching us:

- 1) Not to return in kind; pay back evil for evil
- 2) Not to bear a grudge, or hate those who mistreat you
- 3) Not to seek revenge, or look to retaliate
- 4) We are to do the supernatural -  
***LOVE AND FORGIVE!***

# Synonyms for Lex talionis

tit for tat

tooth for a tooth

eye for an eye

law of retaliation

measure for measure

Lex = *Law*

Talionis = *Retaliation*





YO... YO...



BABA

# JESUS GIVES 4 EXAMPLES REGARDING RETALIATION:

- Turn the other cheek – do not resist a backhand slap on the face, meant to humiliate
- To sue you and take your tunic – do not resist those who take material possessions, if it can maintain peace
  - Do not let a material possession be the cause of a disruption in a relationship

# JESUS GIVES 4 EXAMPLES REGARDING RETALIATION *(cont.)*:

- Go the extra mile – when an oppressive government, *like Rome*, exploits the people for gain
- Help those in need – be grace oriented; be generous, but discerning
  - We are not called to help those who are lazy, idle, or working the system – 2 Thessalonians 3: 10



**Let's face it:**

This teaching is ***HARD,***  
***impossible!!***

This will not be you, but . . .

***GOD IN YOU!!***

Verse 43 - 48

**Love Your Enemies**

***WHUTT?!?***

To **LOVE** them!

To **BLESS** them!

To **DO GOOD** to them!

To **PRAY** for them!

All are written as a ***“present imperative”***  
= **continue to** *love*, *bless*, *do good*, *pray*!

- **A command** from our Lord to you!
- **No exceptions!!**
- **If you are a believer, *this is to you!!***

To do this, you must be transformed  
Romans 12: 1-2

The goal is perfection – *WHUTT?!?*

*“ . . . be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect” (verse 48)*

Perfect = “*teleios*” = perfection of purpose; fit, mature, fully grown

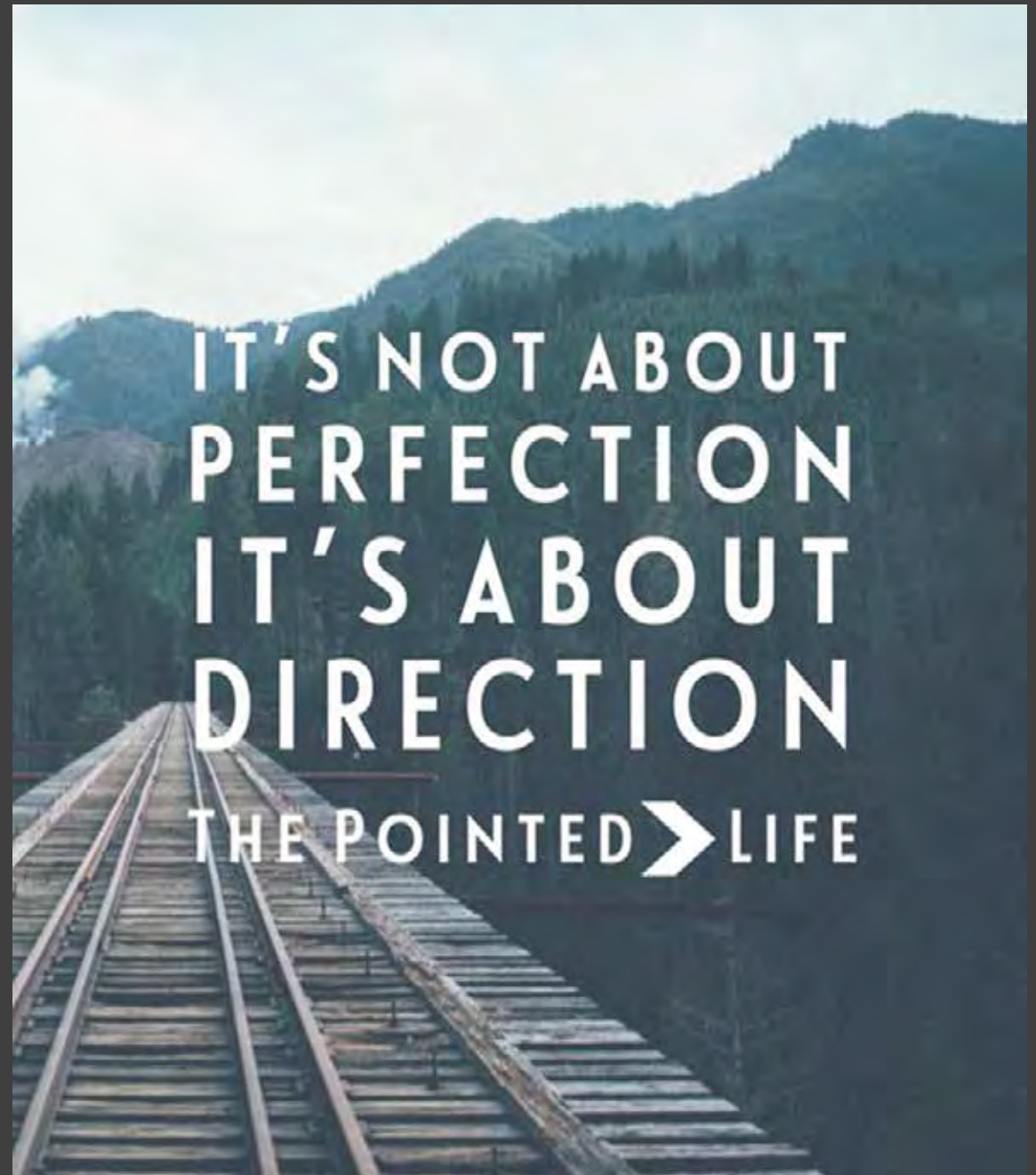
**Our perfection is found in Christ alone!**



The Goal for  
you is  
*direction,*

*not*  
*perfection,*

But to be  
*Growing in*  
*Christ!*



## The result:

You will respond to your world differently

Make sure you are on the *right track*, going in the right *direction!*





## CLOSING THOUGHTS:

This teaching is hard, impossible, and not for the faint of heart!

It is only attainable through **the Holy Spirit's power!**

Your job = ***to be transformed!***

A transformed mind, ***growing in Christ,***  
is you working in concert with God to  
***CHANGE!!***



It is *only in growing* that a spirit of retaliation will diminish

It is *only in growing* that I can love my enemies

It is *only in growing* that I can pray for those who use me and persecute me

# BELIEVERS ARE TO BE LIKE JESUS

**When Jesus was crucified,**

**Jesus was abused, persecuted,  
spitefully used, and tortured**

**Jesus prayed for his persecutors:**

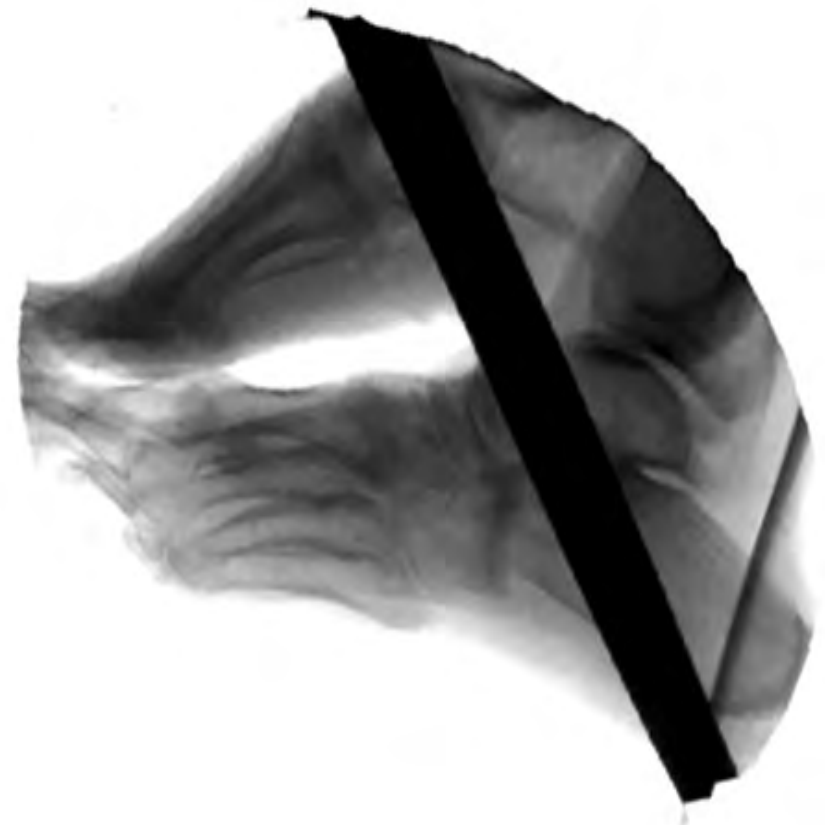
***“Father, forgive them, for they  
do not know what they do”***

**Luke 23: 34**









**Can you now see that we are to be like the Master?!!**

**We are to show the world that we have been with Jesus!**

**That the world may know that Jesus really changes lives!!**

RETALIATION or GRACE

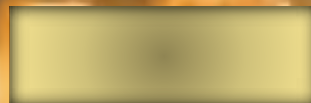
*“But I Say to You”*

***BE LIKE JESUS!***

***BE A GRACE GIVER!***

***THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW  
WHAT A DIFFERENCE HE MADE  
IN MY LIFE!!***

**“What a Difference  
He’s Made in My Life”**



**I’m Blessed Beyond All Measure  
Romans 5:1-11**

