

## **Sermon Title: “Beyond Retaliation — The Power of Mercy”**

### **Scripture:**

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’*

*But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other also.”*

— **Matthew 5:38–39 (NIV)**

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### **Message:**

Jesus was not canceling justice — He was calling us higher. The old law, “*an eye for an eye,*” was meant to limit revenge, to make sure punishment matched the offense. But Jesus introduced a new way — **the way of grace.**

He taught that forgiveness is stronger than retaliation, and mercy carries more weight than vengeance.

When we let go of the urge to strike back, we leave room for God’s justice — and His healing.

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### **Story:**

Years ago, two farmers lived side by side. A fence divided their land — and their tempers. One morning, one farmer’s cow broke through the fence and trampled his neighbor’s crops. Furious, the neighbor vowed to get even.

But his wife quietly said, “Let’s do something different. Let’s bake him a pie.”

Though reluctant, he agreed. When the angry farmer received the pie

instead of an argument, he stood in silence — ashamed of his own bitterness. The next day, he came with wood and tools and helped repair the fence himself.

Mercy won where vengeance would have only deepened the divide.

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### **Closing Thought:**

The world teaches “*get even.*”

Jesus teaches “*give grace.*”

When we choose mercy, we reflect the heart of God — and that’s a power no weapon can overcome.

“*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*”

— **Romans 12:21**

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### **? Video Prompts for Visual Representation:**

#### **Scene 1: Title & Scripture**

##### **Prompt:**

A warm sunrise over a quiet countryside; gentle background music.

Text fades in: “*An Eye for an Eye — The Power of Mercy.*”

Then a close-up of an open Bible showing **Matthew 5:38–39**.

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#### **Scene 2: The Story**

##### **Prompt 1 (Conflict):**

Two farmers argue beside a broken fence; one shouts in frustration, the other clenches his fists.

Rural setting, morning light, dust rising in the air.

### **Prompt 2 (Turning Point):**

The farmer's wife baking a pie in a rustic kitchen, light streaming through the window, her face calm and forgiving.

### **Prompt 3 (Resolution):**

The angry farmer receives the pie, pauses in surprise, softens. Next day, he's helping fix the fence, both men smiling under the sun.

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### **Scene 3: Sermon Application**

#### **Prompt:**

Preacher speaking on a small church stage or outdoor setting; visuals of people forgiving, shaking hands, embracing, helping one another. Text overlay: "*Overcome evil with good – Romans 12:21.*"

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Would you like me to adapt the **video prompts** for a **text-to-video generator** (like Firefly or Kaiber)\*\*—\*\*so each scene has cinematic style, camera angle, and motion cues?