

## Praying For Our Enemies, Part 2

by Mary Kane

I know a woman; we'll call her Kay, who used her lunch break to run to the store to buy some groceries for a friend in great need. On a cold, wintery afternoon, she set off down a back country road at a brisk, **legal** pace to go to the grocery store. As Kay was driving she came upon a car that was traveling slower than the speed limit. She put on her turn signal and proceeded to pass the slower car. However, as Kay was trying to pass the car she noticed that the other car continually increased her speed making it impossible for Kay to pass. Puzzled, Kay returned to her place behind the car thinking that perhaps the other driver noticed how slow she was going and decided to correct the problem.



Preoccupied with how to complete her shopping and make it back to work on time, Kay did not notice at first that the car in front of her had slammed on her brakes. In order to avoid a certain accident, Kay jammed on her brakes just in the nick of time. After a couple of seconds, the other car resumed traveling at a normal rate of speed. While Kay breathed a quick prayer of thanks she scanned the road trying to locate the hazard that caused the other driver to break so hard. She saw nothing. Thinking the other driver had a good reason for such a maneuver, Kay swiftly recovered from the scare and continued on her errand.

As the two drivers reached a divided highway, Kay quickly passed the slower driver. While she was passing the other car, the other woman rolled down her window and made a very obscene gesture at Kay. Now Kay knew what was happening back on the country road; the other woman was harassing her. Kay said a prayer for the Road Rage Woman and asked God to help her and bless her, and then finished her errand, making it back to work on time. Blessing for cursing, love for hate, good for evil. *Agapao* in action.

Did you make it through the *Praying For Our Enemies Part 1* marathon Bible study session? Good for you! Thank you for your commitment to studying God's Word. You are storing up for yourself "treasure in heaven that moths and rust cannot destroy!" Let's reread a bit from yesterday and then dig in to what God has to show us for today!

Please pray for wisdom and insight and read Luke 6:20-28. We will be concentrating on verse 28 today.

**Please restate the four directives that God gave us in verses 27 and 28.**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

So far we have learned that we are to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. Today we are going to concentrate on blessing and praying for those who spitefully use us.

**What do you think of when you hear the word *ble*ss?**

The word *ble*ss in this text transliterates to *eulogeo*. We derive our English word *eulogy* from this Greek word. In general, *eulogeo* means "to praise, favor, to speak well of." If you've been to a funeral, you've heard a eulogy.

But in this passage of scripture, *ble*ss does not mean we are to speak well of those who are wishing curses upon us, rather that by receiving blessings from God that they would in turn receive the One who is blessing them. What greater blessing is there than to be turned from our own ways and take up the way of the Lord? I am very glad that someone prayed for me to be turned from my own ways to take up my cross and follow my Jesus.

**Aside from the fact that God tells us not to take vengeance upon those who have harmed us why shouldn't we return cursing for cursing?**

**How has taking vengeance upon another worked out for you?**

I know—it has never worked for me either. Usually the results are disastrous. Why should we pray that God would bless someone who is treating us poorly? Because God's grace is so amazing! The fact that you *aren't* returning evil for evil will be immediately noticed by those around you. Revenge is what the world expects. By showing your enemy God's grace, they may become a believer. And I don't know of a single person who ever came to believe in Jesus through condemnation and retaliation. Keep in mind the fact that God did the same thing for us while we were yet sinners; He gave us blessing in return for our sin.

**Whom has God placed in your life that has need for you to pray blessings upon them?**

**Please write a prayer for that person in the space provided.**

In verse 28, the word for bless—*eulogeo* stands in direct opposition to the word for curse—*kataraomai*, which means, "to doom, to imprecate evil upon, a prayer of cursing (*BLB*). It also means to wish someone ruined. What a difference in comparison to *eulogeo*! Our enemies are trying to *kataramai* (ruin) us while we are trying to *eulogeo* (bless) them.

**What else are we to do for those who spitefully use us, besides *bless them*?**

We are to bless and **pray** for our enemies (to read more on this subject see the study *House of Prayer* posted at this site). The original word for prayer used in verse 28 is the very familiar *proseuchomai*, which includes every type of prayer including thanksgiving and praise.

### **Who is to receive all this blessing and prayer?**

How do we recognize “those who spitefully use us?” Let’s take a quick look into the original word for *spitefully* and see what we can discover. The Greek word for *spitefully* is *epereazo* which means “threats, insult, to treat abusively and to falsely accuse” (*BLB*). Every time this word is used in scripture it is referring to an enemy attacking a believer because of his faith in Jesus Christ.

Please remember you will never be able to give up a lifestyle of revenge and retaliation and begin loving your enemies in your own power. You may not even want to at this point in time. Revenge can seem so sweet at the time. Would you at least ask God to make you willing to give up your plans for revenge?

### **Please put a check by one thing you are willing to try in place of revenge.**

- I will let go of my right to argue an issue that does not compromise my walk with Jesus. I don’t have to argue about everything.
- I will not return an insult for an insult. I will either ignore it or end the confrontation immediately.
- Instead of planning how to get even with someone who has hurt me, I will show them grace, let the offense go and consider that I may have misjudged what they said.

- In place of thinking mean or vengeful thoughts about another, I will spend time praying for them to come to know Jesus.
- Instead of complaining to my friends about how my spouse has hurt me, I will take the situation to Jesus and leave the outcome to Him. I will not try to make my spouse pay for how I have been hurt.
- (Fill in your own plan).

God's word tells us that in this world we will have trouble but to hold on to hope because He has overcome this world. If you are living for Jesus like a light in the darkness, you will be attacked. But you have your battle plan and marching orders in hand: Agapao, kalos, eulogeo and proseuchomai! (*Agapao* and *kalos* were defined in Praying for Our Enemies Part 1) These four tools backed up and powered by the Holy Spirit are unstoppable!

**Write a quick definition of each of these words:**

**Agapao:**

**Kalos:**

**Eulogeo:**

**Proseuchomai:**

With this battle plan we see the truths from Romans 12:17-21 being worked out in daily life. Please read these verses and meditate on them (If you wish to study them more deeply got to [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org) to take advantage of the many, free Bible study tools offered at this site).

**Please write verse 21 on the lines provided.**

God does not call us to pray for our flesh and blood enemies to be destroyed. He calls us to pray blessings upon them in order to bring

them into the Kingdom of God. What a great battle strategy! Agapao vs. miseo; eulogeo against kataraoimai. God wins. Enemies become brothers. If we follow God's battle plan, we will have a complete victory over the opposition, ending in the life—not the death—of an enemy! Hallelujah!

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