

Reflection by Sister Mary Jaeger



Offer No Resistance

February 19, 2017

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said,

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is

evil. When someone strikes you on your right

cheek, turn the other one as well. [Matthew 5:38-40](#)

The readings for today are filled with hard sayings where we have choices to make when faced with those who do not treat us well. As I share my reflection with you I have to admit that I really struggled with these readings especially the words "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." My heart doesn't like these words and the violence they signify. Then I realized Jesus was making a strong point and is challenging his followers and all of us to pray for and practice a spirit of non-violence no matter what the circumstances.

As I prayed with these passages I was called to pray for all the families who have suffered the loss of loved ones to gun violence and other forms of violence. I am inspired as I read and hear the news stories of the victims of violence who pray and are led to the place where they forgive the perpetrators who have killed their loved ones. They are given the gifts of grace and courage that only God can give. So let us pray:

"O merciful God, fill our hearts, we pray, with the gifts of your Holy Spirit; gifts of grace and courage so we are able to forgive as you forgive. Amen

Sister Mary Jaeger, PBVM