

## **Revenge: from the Holy Bible**

These short quotations are taken from four highly respected versions of the Bible: The New American Bible, The New Jerusalem Bible, the Revised Standard Bible, and the New International Version of the Bible.

Sometimes we may be offended by remarks from an enemy or a friend. Let us not make angry replies, but be guided by Scripture in our reactions. Obey God, and be light to all.

### **No revenge; leave vengeance to the Lord**

Do not say, "As they did to me, so will I do to them; I will repay them according to their deeds." (Pr 24:29, NAB)

Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will help you. (Pr 20:22, RSV)

We are all aware who it was that said: "Vengeance is mine; I will pay them back. And again: The Lord will vindicate his people." (Heb 10:30, NJB)

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated... So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded... You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." (Heb 10:32 – 37, NIV)

### **Do good; love; bless**

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. (1 Thes 5:15, RSV)

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. (Lev 19:18, NIV)

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well. (Lk 6:27–29, NAB)

Bless your persecutors; never curse them, bless them... As much as possible, and to the utmost of your ability, be at peace with everyone. Never try to get revenge: leave that, my dear friends, to the Retribution. As scripture says: Vengeance is mine -- I will pay them back, the Lord promises... Do not be mastered by evil, but master evil with good. (Rom 12:14, 18, 19, 21, NJB)

### **Be Humble and Holy; Shine**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. (Phil 2:5–8, RSV)

When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently. (1 Cor 4:12–13, NAB)

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Heb 12:14–15, NIV)

Your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven. (Mt 5:16, NJB)