

## **PMC SERMON "LIVE IT OUT" GUIDE**

Date: 29 Mar 2015

Text: Romans 12:17-21

Title: Overcoming Evil with Good

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Series: Shining Like Stars

**[For Group Leaders:** The following serves only as a guide. Please feel free to adapt according to the needs of your group.]

### **1. SERMON RECAP**

*(Visit [pmc.org.sg](http://pmc.org.sg) to listen to the sermon and download a copy of the Powerpoint slides)*

- a. True followers of Jesus do not retaliate but do what is right.
- b. When we quarrel with or take revenge on those who wronged us, we are repaying evil for evil.
- c. It is God's prerogative to punish evildoers not ours. When we avenge ourselves, we have taken the matters out of God's hands and into ours.

*"It is good never to retaliate because if we repay evil for evil, we double it, adding a second evil to the first, and so increasing the tally of evil in the world. It is even better to bless, to do good, to seek peace and to serve and convert our enemy. To repay evil for evil is to be overcome by it. To repay good for evil is to overcome evil with good. This is the way of the cross. 'Such is the masterpiece of love.'"*  
John Stott

### **2. LIVE IT OUT**

- a. How should we, as disciples of Jesus, respond to the following so that we can overcome evil with good?
  - i. A neighbour who occasionally "drops" litter in front of your house, or hangs the laundry all the way to your corridor, organises karaoke sessions on weekends, singing loudly until midnight.
  - ii. Your immediate superior at workplace frequently throws sarcastic remarks/criticisms at you (sometimes true, sometimes not) in the presence of junior staff and other colleagues.
- b. Recount an incident that led you to "plot your revenge" (or anything close to it).
  - i. If you did carry it out, what was the consequence? On hindsight, what would you have done differently?

- ii. If you did not carry it out, what were the reasons for the change of mind? Has your situation improved since?
- c. Break into groups of 2-3.
  - i. Share with one another a situation you are facing where you are tempted to return evil for evil. Be specific.
  - ii. Help each other to find alternative ways of response, i.e. ways that are positive and constructive.
  - iii. Commit to pray for one another in the coming week.

### 3. **PRAY**

- a. It is said, for evil to flourish, all that is needed is for good people to do nothing.
  - i. Reflect on events in the past week and see if there is 'evil' being done in your workplace – where you could have done something but didn't.
  - ii. If necessary, repent and pray that God will give you courage and faith – to overcome evil acts with kind deeds.
- b. Pray for group members who might be struggling in their work or workplace (esp. in areas of injustice and oppression). Ask them to share, and pray for them specifically.

### 4. **GOING DEEPER**

- a. In Luke 23:34, Jesus prayed for those who were killing Him, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*
  - i. What can we learn from Jesus in the way He approached evildoers?
  - ii. Does it matter if these killers did not understand or even appreciate His act of kindness?

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