

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

 **How do you respond when evil is done against you?** Do you react like the natural man with anger, resentment, or hopes for revenge? Think of the last time you felt that evil was done against you. Write down 3 of your sinful natural responses. Frame the sentences like this: “When _____ was done to me, I _____” Take time to confess those to the Lord and ask forgiveness for letting evil overcome you.

 **How are you going to prepare yourself for offenses in the future?** Paul wants us to pre-plan to do good when evil comes against us. What are your plans? Will you pray for your offenders? Will you encourage them? Will you have a gift ready to offer them? Write out four ways that you plan to respond to evil with good.

 **Do you really trust God to handle evil done against you?** What space do you need to give to the wrath of God? Think of an unresolved evil that an enemy consistently does against you. What would “leaving room for the wrath of God” look like in that situation? Confess and declare trust in God to overcome evil with His good. Use questions like, “Do I trust God to handle this? Am I giving God all the room he needs to take care of this situation?” to assess your patience.

 **Meditate on the transforming truths of the gospel.** Use the chart below to help you meditate on the gospel in the midst of an evil done against you.

What did _____ do to me?	What do they deserve in return?	What should I give instead?	How can I give to them?
What have I done against God?	What do I deserve from God?	What has God given me instead?	What did it cost God to give this?

