

RETALIATION
MATTHEW 5:38-42
9/24/23

I. PHARISEES TEACHING OF THE LAW

Matthew 5:38 - "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'"

- 1. Applied the Law to the Individual – Making you Judge, Jury, and Executioner**
- 2. Allowed "Justified" Vengeance**

II. JESUS TEACHING OF THE LAW

1. Turn the Cheek

Matthew 5:39 - "But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."

- ~ **How we act when we are wronged by others**
- ~ **Pursue love and mercy**

2. Give the Coat

Matthew 5:40 - "And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well."

- ~ **How we act when we have wronged others**
- ~ **Pursue reconciliation at any cost**

3. Go the Second Mile

Matthew 5:41 - "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."

- ~ **How we act when we are oppressed**
- ~ **Serve in love**

4. Be Generous

Matthew 5:42 - "Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you."

- ~ **How we act when we are blessed**
- ~ **Give with generous hearts**

III. CONCLUSION – DIE TO YOUR NATURAL SELF

- 1. None of these things come "naturally" to us...they can only come when Jesus changes our hearts!**

1 Peter 2:21-23 - "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Do you know of someone in your life who has exemplified what Jesus has taught here on retaliation in Matthew 5?
3. What is our natural response to the situations that Jesus lists here in Matthew 5:38-42? What are some practical ways to change our “natural” response to a “spiritual” response?
4. Can we do all of these things...turn the cheek, give our coat, go the second mile, and give generously... with the wrong heart motivation? How so?
5. How do we change and purify false motivations in our hearts?
6. Do you desire reconciliation as much as God does? How do we change that?
7. What are some ways you might be able to “go the second mile” for your enemy this week?
8. What holds us back from giving generously to others? Why does that hold you back?
9. Respond to Pastor Brandon’s statement, “If we want others to get what they deserve...do we want God to do the same for us?” What does this statement reveal about our hearts? What does it reveal to us about God?

READ GALATIANS 5:22-24

10. Which of the fruit of spirit apply to what Jesus is saying about our relationships in Matthew 5:38-42?
11. How is mercy counter-cultural in our world today? Why is mercy so difficult for us to show? How could showing mercy affect our Christian influence in the world?