



The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 10 • MAY 17

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Who has been a spiritual hero in your life?

BACKGROUND

In this passage of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching on the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven to His listeners. He begins by referencing to an Old Testament Law of Retaliation *an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth* (Exodus 21:23-24) or *lex talionis*. A law meant to maintain social justice not as a license for revenge. He goes on to call for nonresistance to personal insult and generosity in the face of legal or material injustice. He finishes with a reference to a known Roman law that soldiers could compel civilians to carry burdens for one mile plus an emphasis on urging His believers to exemplify the higher righteousness of the Kingdom of Heaven (humility, generosity, and selflessness define moral conduct).

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: 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.”

READ: Matthew 5:38-42



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. When Jesus says, do not resist an evil person, what do you think He means? What do you think He does not mean? How do we avoid misinterpreting this as passivity or enabling harm?
2. What steps can you take to ensure your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees, as per Jesus’ teaching?




HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God’s word.*

1. Jesus gives several examples of going the extra mile: turning the other cheek, giving your cloak, going the second mile. What do these examples have in common? What do they reveal about the heart posture He expects?
2. Why do you think Jesus calls His followers to respond to injustice with generosity rather than retaliation?


DIGGING DEEPER

What does this passage reveal to you:

- About God?
- About us?
- What is Jesus inviting us to feel or examine?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. How does Jesus' teaching on reconciliation influence your relationships and conflict resolution strategy?
2. How does Jesus's teaching on retaliation and loving your enemies challenge your attitudes towards people who have wronged you?
3. What might "second mile" living look like in modern relationships, workplaces or communities?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 6:36
Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)