



Exploring God's Story

1. Discuss how the first sentence of v. 39 contrasts with v.38.
2. Explain, compare, and contrast the four examples Jesus gives about not resisting an evil person in vv. 39b ("but if anyone") through 42.
3. Discuss how v. 44 contrasts with v. 43?
4. Discuss the similarities between what Jesus is teaching in vv. 39a and 44.

Examining Our Story within God's Story

5. What is your honest knee-jerk reaction to someone "doing you wrong" (e.g., when someone attacks, offends, and/or hurts you)?
6. Do you have different levels of reaction depending on what "wrong" was done to you? Why or why not?
7. Discuss why we (generally as humans) OR why you (specifically) have issues with retaliation?
8. Discuss why we (generally as humans) OR why you (specifically) have issues with loving someone who is an enemy, different than you, and/or you don't like?
9. Discuss if there are any differences between "reacting" and "responding."

B.A.S.I.C. Training (Life Application)

10. Is being a child of God (v. 45a) conditional on doing v. 44?
11. How does v. 45b inform v. 45a?
12. Ask and answer the questions in v. 46?
13. Ask and answer the questions in v. 47?
14. What does v. 48 mean? Is it even possible and why or why not?
15. How, then, should we, as Christians, respond to Matthew 5:38-48?

Digging Deeper

- How does Matthew 5:8-12 relate to Matthew 5:38-48?
- What is similar and what is not in Luke 6:27-36 and Matthew 5:38-48?
- How does Romans 12:9-21 relate to Matthew 5:38-48?

Studying Further (Optional Additional Self-Study)

- How is "an eye for an eye" similar and how is it different in the passages below.
- Exodus 21:12-27
- Leviticus 24:10-23
- Deuteronomy 19:15-21
- Does having a greater knowledge of "an eye for an eye" from these passages give a deeper understanding to the Matthew 5:38-48 passage. Why or why not?