

“THE MAGNIFICENT MILE”
MATTHEW 5:38-42
Sermon on the Mount Series
Satilla Baptist Church
Wray, GA
Pastor William Pope
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I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Review of 1st Four “But I say unto you” statements
 - i. Murder
 - ii. Adultery
 - iii. Divorce
 - iv. Lying
- b. Now Jesus moves to Revenge.

II. THE OT LAW

- a. 3 Times in the OT this phrase is used:
 - i. *Ex 21:22 “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall spay as the judges determine. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 teye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*
 - ii. *Lev 24:17 ‘Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death. 18 Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, animal for animal. 19 ‘If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as she has done, so shall it be done to him—20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him. 21 And whoever kills an animal shall restore it; but whoever kills a man shall be put to death. 22 You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the Lord your God.’ ”*

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- iii. Duet 19:18 And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, 19 then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. 20 And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. 21 Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*
 - b. All of these are for Governing Laws. This command from Jesus does not speak to the Law or to punishment. He is speaking about relationships, not laws. The NT commends the punishment of evil doers and the power to use force to protect and keep order.*
 - i. **Romans 12:9-21** (we are told to not Avenge ourselves, Let God be the Avenger)*
 - ii. **Romans 13:1-4***
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good*
- III. **THE MAGNIFICENT MILE** (denying ourselves and serving God through service to others, even those who mistreat us.)*
- a. So what is Jesus saying?*
 - b. We live in a culture saturated by the idea of “rights”. “I have my rights”*
 - c. Jesus is calling us to lay down our own demand for our own rights and serve Him by serving others.*

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- d. George Müller (27 September 1805 – 10 March 1898), a Christian evangelist and the director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England. He cared for 10,024 orphans during his lifetime and provided educational opportunities for the orphans to the point that he was even accused by some of raising the poor above their natural station in British life. He established 117 schools which offered Christian education to more than 120,000 children, many of whom were orphans. George Mueller *"There was a day when I died, utterly died to George Mueller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God."*
- e. It's a spirit of Abraham, who rushed to rescue Lot who had so cheated him. It's the spirit of Joseph, who generously forgave his brothers and tearfully loved them, brothers who had sold him to slavery. It's the spirit of David who, after being chased all over by an angry, evil Saul, to slaughter him, spared his life on two occasions. It's the spirit of Stephen, who, lying crushed beneath the bloody stones, asks that the sin of stoning him not be laid to the charge of those who did it. It is the spirit of Paul, who, after his conversion, writes of love and forgiveness in Romans and Corinthians. It's the spirit of Jesus, who said, "Father, forgive them."

IV. CONCLUSION

- a. Antony, according to Roman history, wanted Cicero dead because he was a political enemy. So he said to his men, "Go and kill Cicero. I want his head." Cicero was the golden-mouthed orator, who had such power because of his great ability to speak. Off went the

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soldiers, and they returned not long after with the head of Cicero. With glee, Antony took the head to his wife, Fulvia, and said, "Look, we have at last the head of our enemy." The biographers say that she took the head and placed it in her lap, and stared into its face and laughed. She pulled the tongue out, put a dagger through the tongue, turned it and had it thus nailed to the door of the very place where he had so many times given great speeches."

- b. It should be said of us, as Tennyson said of Archbishop Cranmer, *"To do him wrong was to beget a kindness from him, for his heart was rich. Of such fine mold that if you sewed therein the seed of hate, it always blossomed love."*