

Kingdom Citizens –The Sermon on the Mount-Lesson 8

Women of Grace|GraceLife Church

“You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. --Matthew 5:38-42

Day 1—Verse 38

“You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’ –Matthew 5:38

1. Matthew 5:21-26 deals with anger and murder; 5:27-32 with adultery, lust, and divorce; and 5:33-37 with honesty. What is the primary focus of verses 38-42?

2. Where is this teaching found in the Old Testament?

3. What was the purpose of the Old Testament law given here?

4. What do these passages teach us about taking revenge?
 - a. Leviticus 19:18

- b. Proverbs 20:22
 - c. Romans 12:17-21
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:15
 - e. 1 Peter 3:9
5. What do these passages teach us about mercy?
- a. Psalm 103:8
 - b. Lamentations 3:22-23
 - c. Micah 6:8
 - d. Luke 6:36-37
 - e. James 2:12-13
6. What sin is the root cause of retaliation?

Heart check:

- How do you respond when wronged? Do you desire to retaliate or seek vengeance?

Day 2—Verse 39

But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. --Matthew 5:39

1. What does it mean to resist evil?
2. Is Jesus saying here that we are never allowed to resist evil?
3. When should we resist evil?
4. Why is it important to differentiate between civil laws and interpersonal relationships when interpreting these verses?

- a. Does this verse apply to our governing authorities? See Romans 13:4; 1 Peter 2:13-14.
5. How did Jesus respond at his trial when he was threatened and struck? See Matthew 26:63, 67; John 19:9-11; 1 Peter 2:23.
6. Read Acts 7:54-60. How did Stephen respond to those were murdering him?

Heart check:

- How do you respond when you feel verbally attacked? When you are attacked on-line?

Day 3—Verse 39

But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. --Matthew 5:39

1. Being slapped in the face wasn't just a physical form of abuse, it was the highest form of insult and humiliation. What do the following verses tell us about insults?

- a. Matthew 5:11

- b. Matthew 27:44

- c. Luke 6:22

- d. 2 Corinthians 12:10

- e. 1 Peter 3:9

2. How would Jesus' teaching apply to verbal “slaps” and abuse?
3. Isaiah 50:5-9 and John 18:19-24 speak of the character of Christ. What do you see in these passages about Him?
4. What qualities must we possess when we refuse to retaliate? Use Scripture to support your answer.
5. What do we display in our heart toward God when we choose not to retaliate?
6. What does “turn the other to him also” show?

Heart Check:

- Do you choose forms of retaliation like insult for insult, evil for evil, or even something like the silent treatment?

Day 4—Verses 40-41

If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. --Matthew 5:41-42

1. How does Exodus 22:26-27 give us a broader context to Jesus' teaching in Matt. 5:40?
2. How are we to treat our enemies and those who mistreat us?
 - a. Psalm 37:1
 - b. Proverbs 24:17
 - c. Prov. 25:21
 - d. Luke 6:27-28

e. Romans 12:14

f. Romans 12:20

g. Ephesians 4:31-32

3. What is the principle that Jesus is teaching here?

4. Is Jesus calling us to be a doormat when it comes to the requests and demands of others?

5. What was the cultural practice that Jesus is referring to here?

Heart check:

- How do you react when asked to do something that wasn't in your plans for the day?
- Do you look for ways to serve others or to avoid having to do so?
- If you are married and your husband asks you to do something for him, what is your response? What is your attitude?
- If you have children, would they say that you are someone who joyfully helps them, or do they know you to resent it when they ask for help?
- Are you generous with your time?

Day 5 vs 42

Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. –Matthew 5:42

1. Why must we turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and be generous to others?
2. Are we required to give anyone anything they ask for?
3. Some say that Jesus is calling for a type of socialism here. Why is that a wrong application of this passage?

4. According to Matthew 5:42, who should we generously give to?
 - a. What should our heart disposition be to those in need?
5. How should we give to others?
6. Who is the rightful owner of all that we possess?
7. Is it possible to react to others trampling on our physical rights, the rights to our property, and the rights to our plans if we don't understand and practice what we learned in Matthew 5:3-12?

Heart check:

- How do you respond when you feel that your honor has been questioned? When you feel you have been wronged?
- Are you willing to give up your rights for the sake of God's glory?

Dig Deeper

1. Christ died a brutal death. Insulted and humiliated more than any other. Listen or re-listen to Pastor James' sermons on Christ's death and humiliation:

<https://gracelife.ca/sermons/sham-trial-shameful-denial/>

<https://gracelife.ca/sermons/my-kingdom-is-not-of-this-world/>

<https://gracelife.ca/sermons/the-silence-was-deafening/>

<https://gracelife.ca/sermons/it-is-finished/>