

To Get Even or Not to Get Even

Matthew 5:38-42

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“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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

The Old Saying

- 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'
- The principles underlying this teaching:
 - The prevention of punishment exceeding the crime or injury.
 - The prevention of personal vengeance.

Jesus' Teaching

- “But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil.”

Jesus' Teaching

- Truth underlying this teaching
 - Attacks, opposition, and persecution will happen.
 - 2 Timothy 3:12 - "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,"

Jesus' Teaching

- Truth underlying this teaching
 - Attacks, opposition, and persecution will happen.
 - John 15:18-21 - " "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."

Jesus' Applications

- “But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”
- This is the area of Personal Insults.

Jesus' Applications

- “And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”
- This is the area of Legal Attack.

Jesus' Applications

- “And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”
- This is the area of Regulatory Imposition.

Jesus' Applications

- “Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”
- This is the area of Financial & Material Inconvenience.

Jesus' call to His believers

- Christ-followers must realize that persecution of some sort at some level is part of following Christ.
- Christ-followers may subordinate our rights to the benefit of others.
- Christ-followers must recognize that we are stewards, not owners. Therefore, we are to give more than what is expected, confidently trusting that the Lord-Who-Provides will provide.
- Christ-followers are to do more than what is required.
- Christ-followers are to be generous.