



April 7, 2019
Pastor Bruce Adrian

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Ten • Matthew 5:38-42

Resisting Revenge

Exceeding Righteousness of Kingdom Citizens

When King Jesus rules our lives, we will resist seeking REVENGE against those who hate, hurt, and humiliate you.

Resisting Revenge in a Vengeful World

1. God Taught Equal JUSTICE for the Nation of Israel.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'"
Matthew 5:38*

Law of Retaliation

- Prohibited excessive PUNISHMENT for a crime.

Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:20-21

- Prevented personal VENGEANCE for a crime.

Genesis 4:23-24; Deuteronomy 32:35; Proverbs 24:29

What Jewish Tradition Taught

The Pharisees twisted God's Law to justify personal REVENGE.

2. Jesus Taught Radical RESISTANCE for Kingdom Citizens.

"But I tell you not to resist an evil person." Matthew 5:39a

What Jesus Is Teaching and Not Teaching

Jesus is teaching non-retaliation in personal RELATIONSHIPS.
He is not teaching that we shouldn't take a stand against EVIL.

*Repay no one evil for evil... Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."
Romans 12:17, 19 ESV*

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:18 NIV

Matthew 21:12; Acts 13:8-12; James 4:7; 1Peter 5:9; Romans 13:1-7

Four Illustrations of Resisting Revenge

- If someone attacks your DIGNITY, "turn the other cheek."

*"But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."
Matthew 5:39*

- If someone threatens your SECURITY, "let him have your cloak."

"If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also." Matthew 5:40

- If someone infringes on your LIBERTY, "go the second mile."

"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two." Matthew 5:41

- If someone asks for your PROPERTY, "give to the one who asks."

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

How Is This Even Possible?!

Resisting revenge in relationships is only possible by dying to SELF;
only then will personal sacrifice replace personal retaliation.

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me
and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 ESV*