



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Turning the Other Cheek

Matthew 5:38–42



Matthew 5:38–42

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”



1. Legal retribution (5:38)

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’”



2. Personal non-retaliation (5:39)

³⁹ “But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil.”



Romans 12:9

Abhor what is evil.



Leviticus 19:18

“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



2. Personal non-retaliation (5:39)

❖ Person vs. role



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- ❖ Person vs. role
- ❖ Sinful retaliation vs. godly responses



2. Personal non-retaliation (5:39)

- ❖ Person vs. role
- ❖ Sinful retaliation vs. godly responses
- ❖ Societal evils vs. personal wrongs



3. Daily crucifixion (5:39–42)

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3. Daily crucifixion (5:39–42)

❖ Personal honor (5:39)



Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth.
Like a lamb led to the slaughter
and like a sheep silent before her shearers,
he did not open his mouth.



3. Daily crucifixion (5:39–42)

- ❖ Personal honor (5:39)
- ❖ Legal rights (5:40)



Exodus 22:26–27

²⁶ If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, return it to him before sunset. ²⁷ For it is his only covering... What will he sleep in?



3. Daily crucifixion (5:39–42)

- ❖ Personal honor (5:39)
- ❖ Legal rights (5:40)
- ❖ Political frustrations (5:41)



Mark 15:21

And they **forced** a passerby, Simon of Cyrene...
to carry his cross.



If... a soldier seizes your donkey, let it go. Do not resist or grumble, or you will be beaten—and lose your donkey just the same!

— Epictetus



3. Daily crucifixion (5:39–42)

- ❖ Personal honor (5:39)
- ❖ Legal rights (5:40)
- ❖ Political frustrations (5:41)
- ❖ Financial instincts (5:42)



2 Thessalonians 3:10

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.



Romans 12:19–21

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves... ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



1 Thessalonians 5:15

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.



Unlearning Retaliation



Unlearning Retaliation

❖ Mood-matching



Unlearning Retaliation

- ❖ Mood-matching
- ❖ Gossip and slander



Unlearning Retaliation

- ❖ Mood-matching
- ❖ Gossip and slander
- ❖ The last word



Unlearning Retaliation

- ❖ Mood-matching
- ❖ Gossip and slander
- ❖ The last word
- ❖ Passive-aggressive tactics



Unlearning Retaliation

- ❖ Mood-matching
- ❖ Gossip and slander
- ❖ The last word
- ❖ Passive-aggressive tactics
- ❖ An entitled heart



Unlearning Retaliation

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- ❖ An entitled heart
- ❖ Refusing to address trauma



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- ❖ Refusing to address trauma
- ❖ Vicarious revenge



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- ❖ Mood-matching
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- ❖ Refusing to address trauma
- ❖ Vicarious revenge
- ❖ Hoping for the worst



2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.



Isaiah 50:6–7

⁶ “I gave my back to those who beat me,
and my cheeks to those who tore out my beard.
I did not hide my face from scorn and spitting.
⁷ The Lord GOD will help me;
therefore I have not been humiliated;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.”



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