



Week 5 - The Other Cheek

Series Passage: Matthew 5:13-48

Focus for the Week: Matthew 5: 38-42, Leviticus 24:19-20, 1 Peter 2:21-24

Discussion Guide:

Our society today has readily adopted a term from Hinduism, karma. It appears to be used by every demographic, and internet culture has sites devoted to “instant karma.”

Q: Have you ever seen someone receive “instant karma?”

It is important to mention that our cultural understanding of the word karma is incorrect to its actual definition and meaning. When we as a society are talking about karma, what we actually are talking about is justice.

Q: Why do you think we have replaced the word “justice” with “karma?”

Q: In your own words, what is justice?

Justice is a theme throughout the entire Bible, and Jesus gives us his teachings on justice on the New Mountain.

Read: Matthew 5:38-42

Q: Is there any part of this passage that you find confusing?

Q: As followers of Christ, what posture is Jesus telling us to adopt?

Q: What would a practical way of turning the other cheek look like?

At the beginning of this passage, Jesus is quoting from the Old Testament when he says, "You have heard it said, 'Eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth.'" One of the three areas where this quote comes from is Leviticus 24.

Read: Leviticus 24:19-20

The guilty party is to receive a punishment equal to what they have done. However, what Jesus is teaching us here, on the New Mountain, is that we are to show mercy and to take that punishment from the guilty party on ourselves. If we get slapped on the cheek, justice would be to slap the offending person back, but mercy means we take that punishment upon ourselves and turn the other cheek.

Q: Does this act of mercy lessen justice?

Q: How can we show mercy to those in our day-to-day lives?

Finishing Well

Jesus, in this passage, is foreshadowing the greatest act of justice, mercy, grace, and love in the entirety of history. We all have sinned, and we all deserve to be held accountable for that sin, and receive our just punishment for God for our sins. Yet, Jesus, the Son of God, takes our place.

Read: 1 Peter 2:21-24

This is our hope and joy. We have been shown the greatest act of mercy in all of history, and so we are to "go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37b)

Close in Prayer