



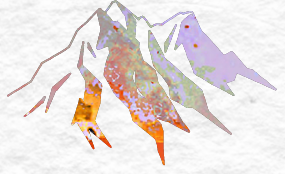
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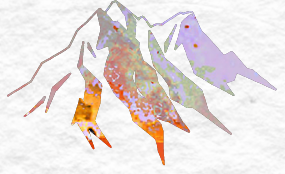




Matthew 5:38-48 CSB

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. ³⁹ But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.



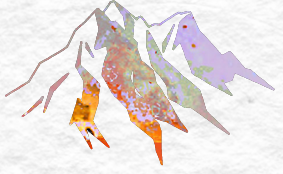


Matthew 5:38-48 CSB

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



1. The People Of Jesus Respond To Offense Differently



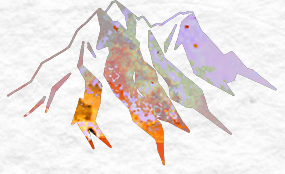
Matthew 5:38-42 CSB

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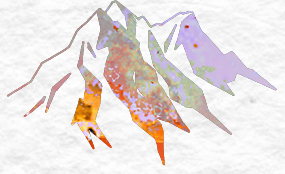


and she loved a little boy

The Giving Tree

by
Shel
Silverstein



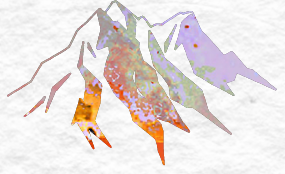


Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ 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." 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.




2. The People Of Jesus Respond To Enemies Differently



Matthew 5:43-48 CSB

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



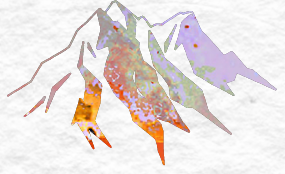


“Jesus is not asking us to have a romantic love or a buddy love or a family love or an emotional love for our enemies. What he commands is an *agape love* – that is, a deliberate, intelligent, determined love – an invincible goodwill toward them.”

R. KENT HUGHES




3. THE PEOPLE OF JESUS FORGIVE DIFFERENTLY



Matthew 6:14-15 CSB

¹⁴ "For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. ¹⁵ But if you don't forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses






We need not climb up into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven: let us look into our hearts, and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt but God has forgiven us.

THOMAS WATSON





Only those who know that God will set every wrong right can truly forgive as God in Christ has forgiven them. Only those who know this will have the ability to pursue justice but to also entrust justice — especially the punitive, retributive payback justice — into the hands of the One who judges justly and who alone has the power to make everything right again.

SCOTT SAULS

