

# Retaliation & Loving Your Enemies

Matthew 5:38–48

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

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

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.

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

42 Give to the one who begs from you,  
and do not refuse the one who would  
borrow from you.

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

43 “You have heard that it was said,  
‘You shall love your neighbor and hate  
your enemy.’

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

44 But I say to you, Love your  
enemies and pray for those who  
persecute you,

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

46 For if you love those who love you,  
what reward do you have? Do not  
even the tax collectors do the same?

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

47 And if you greet only your brothers,  
what more are you doing than others?  
Do not even the Gentiles do the  
same?

Matthew 5:38–48

ESV

48 You therefore must be perfect, as  
your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:38–48

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## Two Principles for Interpretation:

1. Scripture interprets Scripture
2. Greater righteousness

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21

ESV

*... we need to remind ourselves that Jesus' aim is not to establish a new and more demanding set of rules to supplant those of the scribes and Pharisees. . . . It is to establish a "greater righteousness," a different understanding of how we should live as the people of God, an alternative set of values.*

The Gospel of Matthew, *R.T. France*

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

John 13:9–10

ESV

Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”

John 13:9–10

ESV

Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.

Genesis 4:23–24

ESV

If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then  
Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.”

Genesis 4:23–24

ESV

Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, “How did the Spirit of the Lord go from me to speak to you?”

1 Kings 22:24–25

ESV

And Micaiah said, “Behold, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide yourself.”

1 Kings 22:24–25

ESV

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:12

ESV

# Two Motivations for the Righteous Response

1. Faith in a Sovereign God
2. Love for the Other Person

And the high priest stood up and said,  
“Have you no answer to make? What  
is it that these men testify against  
you?”

Matthew 26:62–68

ESV

But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Matthew 26:62–68

ESV

Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Matthew 26:62–68

ESV

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

Matthew 26:62–68

ESV

What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”

Matthew 26:62–68

ESV

Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him...

Matthew 26:62–68

ESV

*Love for enemies is a reflection of the character of God himself. . . like father, like son.*

The Gospel of Matthew, *R.T. France*