



WHERE'S THE LINE

NOTES

for today's message

HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO OTHERS WHEN WE ARE WRONGED

MATTHEW 5:38-48 "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. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 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. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Jesus is speaking to a people who were oppressed by an evil empire
 - Their lives were at stake
 - They were wronged on massive scale
- When we feel wronged, we actually like revenge. Jesus comes along and says we are not allowed that kind of vengeance or retribution.
- **Citizens of the Kingdom refuse to respond to evil with more evil.**

MATTHEW 5:38-39A "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."

- Retaliation was never intended to be the natural response of the people of God.

3 REASONS JESUS IS NOT CALLING US TO BE PASSIVE:

1. If Jesus was calling us to be passive, it would go against the rest of the Bible.

- People of God always called to resist evil.
- Jesus himself stands against evil.

2. The word for resist is bigger in greek than it is in English

- “Anthistemi”-means to apply in equal pressure, match equal for equal.

3. Look at the context

- Remember Jesus is comparing and contrasting the current culture with Kingdom culture.

“The default question for a citizen of the kingdom when wronged, doesn’t have to be, “How far can I go in retaliation?” The question can and should be, “How do I best display the kingdom and the King that it represents?”- Ross Lester

- **Citizens of the Kingdom refuse to respond to evil with more evil.**

MATTHEW 5:39B “But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

MATTHEW 5:40 “And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”

MATTHEW 5:41 “And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”

PROVERBS 25:21 “If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, 22 for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”

PSALM 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

- **Citizens of the Kingdom refuse to respond to evil with more evil.**

- Don’t allow retaliation to cheapen what God is doing in you.

STUDY GUIDE

questions for later

Discussion:

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?

2. Read **Matthew 5:38-42**

- How have you been publicly wronged? Slandered? Sued? Oppressed?
- How did you respond?
- If Jesus wants your response to not be one of retaliation, nor passivity, but one of reconciliation, what does it look like?
- How do you change your heart so that you begin to think about the person who wronged you in a completely different way?

3. Reality check: Ross Lester says, "The default question for a citizen of the kingdom when wronged, doesn't have to be, 'How far can I go in retaliation?' The question can and should be, 'How do I best display the kingdom and the King that it represents?'"

- How does God call you to put Him on display for those who have slandered you, abandoned you, offended you, disagreed with you, opposed you?

Action Steps:

- **HEART** - discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the daily devotional or a daily scripture reading plan. Invite three people of your same gender to form a DNA Group, committing to meet weekly for a year to discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus, together. Contact brad@northridgenow.org for more information on forming a DNA Group.
- **HARD TO REACH** - identify someone this week who is far from Jesus. Find ways to hear their story and begin building a relationship with them.
- **HOME** - spend time with your family discussing ways to grow in devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others.
- **HURTING** - identify someone who is hungry, sick, anxious, lonely, or has some other need. Find ways to meet that need.