



Retaliation and Kingdom Citizens

Matthew 5:38-42

Introduction: Jesus wants to have a word with us about _____ We live in a very violent world, wouldn't you agree?

Have you noticed that people have a _____-even mentality? We hear people say things like,

I also discovered that there is a huge resource of books on the market with the following titles:

Here are some stories about retaliation:

- **The Hatfield and McCoy Feud**
- **Hot Tub and Manure**
- **Wife Angry with Husband**
- **See How You Like It**
- **Korean Boy and American Soldiers**

How does a Kingdom Citizen _____ in a world of retaliation?

So, what does Jesus have to teach us in fifth section of Matthew 5? He teaches us the Kingdom way to deal with problems we have with others. Jesus is going to tell us that we only have two options. They are:

I. Option 1 – _____ – 5:38

38 *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'*

These words come from several sources:

- Exodus 21:24-25 – *24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

- Leviticus 24:19-20 – 19 *'If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him— 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.*
- Deuteronomy 19:21 – 21 *Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

These verses are called the _____, the law of retaliation.

The trouble is that a law designed to limit retaliation and punish fairly could be appealed to as _____ for vindictiveness.[1]

But like the OT laws permitting divorce, enacted because of the hardness of men's hearts (19:3–12), the *lex talionis* was instituted to curb _____ because of the hardness of men's hearts. "God gives by concession a legal regulation as a dam against the river of violence which flows from man's evil heart" (Piper, p. 90).[3]

One article I read stated, "_____ isn't always the answer. An eye for an eye makes the whole world _____."

Is there a better way? I say, YES. There is a better way. We must listen to the words of Jesus Christ. We must take to heart these words of Jesus that are before us in this text.

II. Option 2 – _____ and _____ – 5:39-42

39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

The antonym for retaliation is _____ or forgiveness.

A. Turn the other _____ – 5:39

39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

What is the _____ impulse if someone would slap you? To strike _____, right?

Overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

Now what does turning the other cheek mean? Notice that Jesus uses the word "*slaps*" – there is a big difference between being slapped, and having your _____ threatened. Someone slaps you; you can live through that.

I also found it interesting that in the _____, a slap on the cheek was the greatest form of insult, it's equivalent in the _____ would be having someone spit in your face. How would you respond to being slapped, or spit upon?

Will Smith & Chris Rock

Pastor Gets Punched

Remember there is a difference between a _____ and _____ injury. Or even possible harm to your family.

B. Give away your _____ – 5:40

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

See the word “_____”? Have you ever been sued? Taken to court? According to the Apostle Paul God's people are not to sue one another (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Here Jesus taught that if someone wants to sue you and take away your tunic. What is a tunic? The tunic would be your _____. Jesus says we are to let them have them. But he doesn't stop there, next Jesus says, “*let him have your cloak also.*” What is your cloak? The cloak is your _____ garment. It is the more expensive garment worn over the tunic.

You see what we wear is not as important as our witness. The temporal is not as important as the eternal. Our testimony is the only thing that people will really SEE!

C. Go the extra _____ – 5:41

41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Roman soldiers coming into your village carrying their packs could _____ that you carry their packs for one mile – 5,280 feet. It was the law.

Think about this concept in the terms of _____, or even in Christian _____. Do we only do what is expected of us, or will we do even more than what is expected? Will we go the extra mile?

And think about what could happen if we went the _____ mile. All the possible conversations that could develop. Do you think that perhaps those who compel you to go a mile might have some questions about your willingness, or even possibly your attitude when you are willing to go the extra mile? Sure, they would.

Kingdom Citizens don't _____ – they bear the load with a smile.

D. _____ and _____ – 5:42

42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

If you have it, _____ it, and if you can loan it, _____ it out.

But remember – NEVER expect to get back what you give, and anything you loan out, always expect it to come back broken. Isn't that true? This is called: _____ law.

One guy penned, "A loan should be looked upon as a potential _____"

I recently was the recipient of a gift. When I thanked the person, they responded by texting me, "God has blessed us in order to bless _____, right?"

Many people never give and are _____ to loan things out. They do so out of retaliation. In their mind they believe that they have worked hard for everything they have, so why should they give to people who, in their mind, are unwilling to work as hard as them. In their minds they are thinking, these people want someone for nothing. This is not the mind set of Kingdom Citizens.

You see, the whole point in Jesus' sermon is that God's people live out a _____ law. We live differently than the rest of the world. **Who are we?** We are _____, believers, _____, Christians, and Kingdom Citizens. And according to Jesus Christ those who belong to Him live differently.

Conclusion: Will it be an " _____ for an eye and a _____ for a tooth" for you, or will you choose to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, and live as Kingdom Citizens? Here are some truths to remember:

1. Retaliation is not the _____. Get even is what the world does.
2. Don't resist an _____ person – turn the other cheek. I believe the idea here is that resistance often makes a person receptive.
3. If someone wants to _____ you, and take your tunic, give him your coat also. Do not live for temporal, but for the eternal.
4. Go the _____ mile – do more than what is expected of you.
5. Give to him who _____ and _____ to others if you have it.

[1] Carson, D. A. (1984). Matthew. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 155). Zondervan Publishing House.

[2] Weber, S. K. (2000). *Matthew* (Vol. 1, p. 69). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

[3] Carson, D. A. (1984). Matthew. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 155). Zondervan Publishing House.