

# *You Have Heard It Said, Part 2*

*Matthew 5:33–42*

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

## EPISODE SUMMARY

Jesus continues the antithesis pattern of Matthew 5 with two more illustrations of one argument. On oaths, he refuses the loophole-driven question of which oaths are binding and asks us to be the kind of person whose plain word can be trusted. On retaliation, he refuses the entitlement question of how much harm we're owed in return and pulls up the mirror-instinct itself by the roots. Same move, twice. Both halves are about how a kingdom person handles power over other people — words and the response we're permitted to give. Christ embodied this before he ever taught it; the Spirit is forming that same shape in us.

## KEY THEMES

- Same move twice: oaths and retaliation as parallel illustrations of one argument.
- Words and force as kingdom power — what we do when we have leverage over others.
- The OT background: lex talionis as judicial restraint, not personal license.
- The second mile as the recovery of moral agency under coercion.
- Christ as the embodiment — he lived the sermon before he ever taught it.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*"Let your 'yes' mean 'yes,' and your 'no' mean 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one... 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."*

— Matthew 5:37, 39, CSB

## TAKEAWAY TRUTH

Jesus is not patching the rules. He's reshaping the heart underneath them. Both halves of this passage ask the same question: what kind of person are you when you have leverage over someone else? Grace is not the absence of the call. Grace is the power to answer it.

## APPLICATION FOR TODAY

Two places to look this week. First — where are you reaching for an oath-stamp to make people believe what should be believable on its own? Second — where are you keeping a private scoreboard of slights, waiting for your chance to even the score? These aren't rules. They're places to notice the heart Jesus is reshaping.

## SERIES FOCUS

*The Sermon on the Mount — Matthew 5 · CT058–CT069*