

1. Are we to interpret “Do not resist the one who is evil” as an absolute, universal principle without qualification? How do Jesus’s four illustrations help us understand His expectations?
2. The first three examples Jesus cites have in common a confrontational moment.
 - The fourth example surprisingly deals with a different kind of situation. How is dealing with a needy person like dealing with an attacker?
 - What singular response is Jesus looking for in all four instances?

1. **Which of the scenarios cited by Jesus would be most difficult for you:** responding to insult, responding to loss in civil court, responding to oppression at the hands of those in authority, responding to the requests of a needy person?

- 2. It is only natural for someone to respond to attack with retaliation.** Yet Jesus wants His people not only to refrain from retaliation but to respond with grace and generosity, to “overcome evil with good” (Rom 12:21). The sermon shows us that we must be mindful of three things about God if we want to respond to attack with grace and not vitriol: who God is (the righteous Judge of all men), who we are (His beloved), and what He is doing in our inner lives (renovating our hearts to make grace and generosity more natural for us).

Which of those three things about God is easiest to understand and remember?

3. **Even if we agree with Jesus about His previous points (malice, lust, keeping our word), there is something stubborn in our hearts that makes us want to reject Jesus's teaching on this point.** It seems grossly unreasonable for Him to ask us not only to refrain from retaliation but also to respond with grace and generosity.

This text places high demands on God's people, and it forces us to ask ourselves not if we *can* obey Jesus in this matter (we cannot) but whether we *want* to obey Him.

Spend some time alone in prayer to talk this over with your Father. Ask Him to cleanse your heart of resentment and give you the grace you need to respond to antagonism with generosity.

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