

## “Misunderstood” Sermon Series: Eye For An Eye?

Westview Baptist Church - Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 08.31.25



### I. Personal Vengeance

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*Key Truth:* Selflessness Magnifies Christ & Fortifies Us Against Sin

### II. Maintaining Law & Order

Leviticus 24:17-22

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*Point:* The Punishment Should Fit The Crime

### III. Rights & Retaliation

Matthew 5:38-42

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*Point:* Our Conduct Should Mirror The Selflessness Of Christ

### IV. Selflessness Sets Us Free

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### Mid-Week Devotion (Take time to pray & respond to the following)

*It doesn't take much looking around to find a reason to want to strike back or get even. Much of what we see and hear in the media seems designed to stir our emotions and spark outrage. The desire for wrongs to be made right is a natural response, but as followers of Christ, we must learn to distinguish between a godly longing for justice and a sinful hunger for revenge. Scripture reminds us that vengeance does not belong to us—it belongs to the Lord.*

*When we give in to anger or resentment, we step onto dangerous ground that leads us toward sin. God calls us to something better—a life marked by Christ-like restraint. Selflessness magnifies Christ and fortifies us against sin. Every act of sacrifice and service done in Jesus' name is a testimony to the power of the gospel through the work of the Holy Spirit. Such acts turn our focus away from self and back onto Christ, strengthening us to resist the pull of sin.*

*The call to selflessness isn't easy because it often runs against our emotions and human instincts. We are quick to demand our rights, and feelings of retaliation rise up when we feel slighted or harmed. But Christ calls His followers to live above the world's standards of morality, rights, and relationships. Selflessness does not imprison us—it liberates us: freeing us from pride, self-indulgence, and the endless cycle of vengeance. Choosing selflessness breaks the chains of bitterness and opens the way to peace and victory over sin.*

*How are you doing in the area of selflessness? Are you more prone to outrage and anger than to humility and thankfulness? Is there anything Christ could call you to do—or endure—for His glory that would be beyond your willingness to obey?*

*Prayerfully consider the opportunities for selflessness God has placed in your life right now. Ask Him to magnify Christ through your testimony and to strengthen your heart against the temptation of vengeance, so that your life points others to Jesus.*