

I CAN'T EVEN WITH YOU.. OR CAN I?

Pastor Chad Gilligan | December 4, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION TO FLIP THE SCRIPT

A. Jesus is teaching His followers that life in the Kingdom of God is different than life in the world's kingdom.

B. Life in God's Kingdom is lived from the inside-out.

- Jesus flips the script to focus on inside and not the outside.
- You can be right on the outside, and still be wrong on the inside.

Matthew 5:45 He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 5:46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

Matthew 5:47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:48 (Message) In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

Matthew 5:38-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'"

Matthew 5:39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Romans 13:4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

II. THREE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Matthew 5:39-40 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

Question #1: Can You Let It Go?

- **Ignore the Insult**
- **Drop the Matter**

Matthew 5:41-42 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Question #2: Can You Go the Extra Mile?

- **Be willing to do what you do not have to do.**

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Matthew 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Question #3: Can You Love Your Enemies?

“Many have learned how to offer the other cheek, but do not know how to love him by whom they were struck.” — Augustine

“To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine.” — Alfred Plummer

“We are approaching an age of wide-spread persecution ... Soon the time will come when we shall pray ... It will be a prayer of earnest love for these very sons of perdition who stand around and gaze at us with eyes aflame with hatred, and who have perhaps already raised their hands to kill us ... Yes, the Church which is really waiting for its Lord, and which discerns the signs of the times of decision, must fling itself with its utmost power and with the panoply of its holy life, into this prayer of love.” — A.F.C. Villmar

“Jesus didn't teach us to love our enemies for their good. It is for our own good--to keep from becoming the enemy.” — Russ Ford, Death Row Chaplain

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—