

Conflict 01: Eye for an Eye
Exodus 21:23-25, Matthew 5:38-39

October 12, 2025

Main Idea: Revenge wrecks relationships. Forgiveness forges friendships.

Series: Conflict is a part of life. Everyday people interact with one another in their families, workplaces, and other places in the community. In those settings, individuals can have differences of opinion over things like who is entitled to a piece of equipment in the gym, how the family budget will be used, how to discipline the children, who gets the next spot in traffic, and all sorts of other things. When there is a difference, conflict is at hand. However, not all conflict is bad. Differences don't have to result in a fight. They can challenge our way of thinking, but they can also make us better people. God created us all differently and with different purposes. The trick is to recognize the goodness that others bring to a situation and to pick and choose what we will battle over, but more importantly, how we will conduct ourselves in conflict. This series is about handling conflict God's way!

One of the things we often struggle with when conflict is over something someone has done to us in which we feel like we've been wronged is the need to get even. When the shoe is on the other foot, it is also natural to want to defend one's own actions. We want things to be fair unless we are the one deserving of punishment, then we want mercy. Today's topic, "Eye for an Eye," is one people use to respond to situations when they feel harmed, but rarely bring up when they are the ones who did the harm. The reality is that this principle is for the one who did harm. It is to protect escalation of wrongs or retaliation and ultimately to ensure that people are treated fairly.

To the Book:

Read Exodus 21:23 – This verse is part of an overall passage that informed leaders how to handle issues. The purpose can be seen in the flow chart like nature of the "if this, then that" way Moses worded it. The purpose was for a judge to be able to reference this as a punishment guide when someone committed an offense.

Read Vv. 24-25 – Notice the exact same response to each injury. The idea was not for people to be able to get revenge on one another. Rather, "punishment should fit the crime." The focus was on fairness.

Read Matthew 5:38 – Jesus referenced the passage from Exodus. Religious leaders were abusing punishment standards to exact personal revenge.

Read V. 39 – Conflict is not about getting even or besting someone. When relationships are involved it is not worth it. It is better to show goodness, grace, and mercy. Relationships are more important.

Fair is still fair in conflict. An important thing to remember is that we were all once enemies of God. Sin separates us from Him. We deserve punishment but that was not what God did. He instead absorbed punishment on the cross as Christ died for us. Goodness, grace, and mercy have been extended to us all. This was all done in the name of restoring our relationship with God. We should do the same and fight **for** relationships and not against people.

Family Night Big Idea: Do not seek revenge and God will handle the situation!

Read: Romans 12:19 – We have all wronged and been wronged. God's love allows us to make amends.

Elementary School: Ask, "What can you do when someone hurts you other than getting even?"

Middle/High School: Ask, "Why is it better to forgive people than to try to get back at them?"

Pray: "Lord, help us learn to forgive others like you forgave us. Teach us to be fair and to trust you. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, October 15th.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

Battle Belongs.....Phil Wickham

Mighty Name of Jesus.....Hope Darst

This is My Song.....Northpoint Worship

Baptism

October 26th. Use the Communication Card to let us know if you are interested or have questions.

Boo Bash

Mark your calendars for our fall event on October 26th. We will have Trunk or Treat, Costume Contest, Pancake Supper, Cake Walk, Games, Petting Zoo and more! We need 15-20 more Trunks (You don't have to decorate your trunk. You can just pass out candy). We need lots more cakes for the Cake Walk (Cakes or cupcakes can be store bought). Lastly we need donations and they are due next Sunday, the 19th. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Baby Bottle Boomerang for Choices of the Heart

Fill bottle with change and bring back next week!