

“A Slap, a Cloak, a Smile, and a Loan” (Matthew 5:38–42)
GCC, Morning worship, 11/6/22

Introduction: *If you wrestle with Jesus’ teaching, that’s a good sign that you are trying to hear him.*

I. Make Room for Three Kinds of Tension

A. *Eschatological Tension*

1. Personal vs. national (corporate) ethic
2. “My kingdom is not of this world... (Jn 18:36)

B. *Personal Tension*

C. *The tension of application: Localized wisdom is necessary for fleshing out the Application*

II. Avoid Extremes that Do Not Harmonize with the Whole Counsel of the Word of God

A. *The extreme of Pacifism*

B. *The extreme of pitting Jesus against Jesus (Luke 4:29, 30; 22:36)*

C. *The Extreme of pitting Jesus against the rest of the bible*

III. Hear What Jesus IS Saying

A. **The Principle:** People *before* personal rights, possessions, and convenience

B. Winsome and Loving Courage when slapped (vv. 38–39)

1. *Love* triumphs over retaliation
2. *Love* is motivated and fueled by the eschaton
3. *Love* is motivated and fueled by the example of our Lord (1 Peter 2:21–23)

C. Souls over Stuff (v. 40)

D. Two Miles and a Smile (v. 41)

E. A Desire to Help over a Desire to Hoard (v. 42)

IV. Entrust yourself to the judge who judges justly *through* Christ

Questions for Application and Discussion:

1. What is the eschatological tension in Jesus’ teaching?
2. What is the personal tension in Jesus’ teaching?
3. What is the tension of application?
4. What are some extremes we should avoid in fleshing out Jesus’ teaching?
5. What are some real-life practical ways you have applied Jesus’ teaching concerning a slap, a cloak, a smile, and a loan?