

The Gospel of Matthew #47

Sermon on the Mount: Six Examples of the Right Use of the Law:

5. Retaliation and Non-Resistance

DEFENDING MY RIGHTS

Matthew 5:38-42

- I. What the rabbis taught: personal revenge: v38
Equivalent restitution by force: eye for an eye, etc.

Derived from OT Law:

Exod 21:24-25;

Lev 24:20;

Deut 19:21

But distorted for their own purposes

In fact OT forbade personal revenge:

Lev 19:18;

Prov 20:22;

Prov 24:29

In all 3 retaliation passages, it is clear that the appointed judges were to carry out the sentence

These laws often criticized as barbaric. In fact these laws were

1. J_____

2. M_____

3. D_____ to violence

The Pharisees were distorting and abusing them.

II. What Jesus taught: **DO NOT RESIST AN EVIL PERSON!** (v39)

Cf. Eph 6:13: resist the devil, but not an evil person. ?!

Everything in us wants to change this! So He gives four illustrations/applications to prevent that:

A. BEING _____ (v39b)

Not pacifism. Distinguish individual from state (Rom 13). What He forbids is *personal* retaliation

B. BEING _____ (v40)

C. BEING _____ (v41)

D. BEING _____ (v42)

III. How Jesus modeled what He taught

Isa 50:6 → Matt 26:59-63, **67**;

27:27-31, 39-44

I Peter 2:21-23 → 24-25!

How this searches our hearts! I rise to defend my rights as naturally as breathing! Who can obey it? It is a supernatural response.

What would happen if the world saw Christians respond to personal attacks in this way rather than seeking to meet force with force?