

I Say Unto You 5: Love (Matthew 5:38-48)

Introduction: Matthew 5:38-48 and three illustrations
This is for *all* Christians

1. verses 38-42: Revenge

You have heard it said ... (v.38)

An eye for an eye ... (Ex 21:23-25, Lev 24:19, Deut 19:21)
Personal revenge forbidden (Lev 19:18, Pr 20:22, Pr 24:29)

But I say unto you ... (v.39-42)

v. 39a To resist or not to resist?
Four case-studies of non-retaliation
v. 39b Do not retaliate when insulted
v. 40 Be willing to surrender possessions
v. 41 Go out of your way to do above and beyond
v. 42 Give without condition

Just how much of this are we supposed to do? Isn't there balance?

2. Verses 43-47: Love

You have heard it said ... (v. 43)

Love your neighbor (Lev 19:18)
Hate your enemy? (no chapter or verse)
A corrupt human justification

But I say until you ... (v. 44-47)

Love your enemies ... (v.44a)
The selfishness of limiting love to only friends and family (v. 46-47)

It makes you like Christ (1 Pet 2:21-23)
Pray for your persecutors (v. 44b)

It makes you like your Father (v. 45)
"so that" (a purpose clause)
return good for evil (make an enemy and then find a way to love them)

3. Verse 48: *You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect*

Let this impossible standard cause you to do two things:
a) embrace and appreciate the Gospel
b) pursue this perfection and don't settle for less; for it is your birthright!