

Jesus on Retaliation

Matthew 5:38-42

Citizens of the Kingdom don't insist on their rights – they give up their rights.

1. The person who insults you (v39)
2. The person who takes advantage of you (v40)
3. The person in a position of power over you (v41)
4. The person who won't repay you (v42)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. Can you think of a time when you had the opportunity to retaliate, but didn't? What happened?
2. Read Matthew 5:38-42. How do we know Jesus isn't telling us not to resist evil in general? How do we know this passage is only for believers? How do we know this applies to us personally, but not to us as we carry out our duties? May a Christian serve as a police officer? In the military? Read Acts 16:35-40 – did Paul violate Jesus' teaching when he objected to his harsh treatment?
3. When someone insults you, what is he/she trying to take from you? What can help you not to retaliate? Can you think of a time when you did this?
4. When someone tries to take your possessions, what can help you avoid retaliating? Can you think of a time when this happened to you?
5. When someone uses positional power over you, how do you tend to respond? How can you do better?
6. What do you do when someone you don't know wants money from you? Why? What if it's someone you know who has a reputation for mishandling money? Do you think those are the type of people Jesus was describing here? If not, who is He describing?
7. Read 1 Peter 3:8-17. What similarities does this passage share with Matthew 5:38-42? According to v15, what should happen when we're living this passage out? How does this open a door for evangelism? Has anyone asked you lately what makes you different?
8. How do faith and grace show up in this passage, and in our application of it?