

Turn the Other Cheek?

Matthew 5:38-42

1. The precept proclaimed.

Matthew 5:38 | ³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’

Exodus 21:23-25 | “ But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Leviticus 24:19-20 | If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him, fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him.

Romans 13:4 | for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.

Leviticus 19:18 | You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Proverbs 24:29 | Do not say, “I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done.”

Matthew 18:21-22 | Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

2. The principle reclaimed.

Matthew 5:39a | But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil.

3. The practice explained.

A. As it relates to retaliation.

Matthew 5:39b | But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

1 Peter 2:23 | When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

B. As it relates to litigation.

Matthew 5:40 | And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

C. As it relates to conscription.

Matthew 5:41 | And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

D. As it relates to cooperation.

Matthew 5:42 | Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.