

SERMON-BASED STUDY: REVENGE

Matthew 5:38-42, ESV – ³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 What was the original intent of the law that Jesus is referring to? How had the Pharisees misused this law?

2 This week we learned that we need to respond to those who come against us with love and reason, not rage and revenge. Why is this so difficult to do?

3 How can we be better equipped and prepared to respond in moments when we are wronged?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Romans 12:17-21, ESV** – ¹⁷ *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* ¹⁸ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* ¹⁹ *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”* ²⁰ *To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”* ²¹ *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

4 How do you judge what is “honorable,” especially with the caveat “in the sight of all”?

5 Why is it alright for God to pursue vengeance but not alright for us to seek it?

6 What does Paul mean by the phrase, “for by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head”?

B **1 Peter 2:21-23, ESV** – ²¹ *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.* ²² *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.* 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.*

1 Peter 4:19, ESV – ¹⁹ *Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

7 According to 1 Peter 2:21, we have been called for a purpose. What purpose have we been called to?

8 Describe how Jesus responded to suffering and injustice toward Himself. How can we follow His example in our own lives?

9

What parallels can be drawn from comparing 1 Peter 2:23 and 1 Peter 4:19? Why do you think Peter refers to God as the one “who judges justly” and “faithful Creator”?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus reminds us that believers are not to take vengeance on others, but to respond with love. Think about some “evil doers” in your life. How have you responded to them in the past? How has this study changed the way you will respond in the future? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to be people that love in the midst of suffering.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Leviticus 19:17-18
Deuteronomy 32:35
Proverbs 10:12, 20:22
1 Thessalonians 5:15
1 Peter 3:9