

Peace in our time

Eye for Eye

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Love for Enemies

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1. Does this mean we should live in a society without punishment for wrong doing? (verses 38-39)
2. What does turning the other cheek do? What is the principal we are being taught? (verse 39)
3. What are the rights our society holds dearest? What might be a situation where we could forgo our rights for the sake of others? (verses 40-41)
4. What is a practical example of putting the "turn the other cheek" principal into action?
5. "Eye for an Eye" and "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy" are from the Old Testament Law, is Jesus changing the Law of the Old Testament? How are we to read the Old Testament passages about Law? (ANSWER: Jesus bring us under a new covenant, the Law of the old is gone. Jesus bring us back to the heart of the law instead of the letter of it.)
6. What does Jesus mean by "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good"? What is the point he is making? (verse 45)
7. Can we sometimes be stingy with our love? What would be an example of that? (verse 46)
8. Since we can't be perfect, what is Jesus urging us to do? Why does he tell us to be perfect? (ANSWER: Christianity is an aspirational faith, we aspire to do what we know we can't. That with our goal so high we might achieve greater things that ever imagined.)