



**Full intent of a law on vengeance (5:38-42)**

Jesus challenges their idea of the right response to evil (v.38)

*You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'*

Jesus calls for active good even when it comes at a great cost (v.39-42)

*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. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well...*

- In response to insults and lawsuits

*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles...*

- In response to the enemy and coercion

*Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.*

- In response to the beggar and the borrower

**Bottom Line: The renovated heart would rather be wronged than fail to love.**

**For those not yet living a Jesus-centered life:**

- 1. Accept the love that paid a great cost for you

**For those living a Jesus-centered life:**

- 2. Make a plan for how you'll respond before the moment comes
- 3. Let Christ heal the anger in your heart today
- 4. Decide you don't have the option to ignore, but be creative in how you love

What was the intent of the "eye for eye" restriction? (See Exod. 21) What's the problem when legal codes are moved from courtroom justice to your personal vendetta?

Before this sermon, what types of things have you excused or justified in your response to others?

(While we know 2 wrongs don't make a right, we look for when others are thoughtless, foolish, or harsh because then we can put 'em in their place.)

What kind of personal retribution do you enforce on others? (If so-and-so does \_\_\_\_, then they have to \_\_\_\_... If so-and-so does \_\_\_\_, then I get to \_\_\_\_...)

What would Jesus ask you to do?

Are you tempted to use this passage to curb someone else's behavior right now? Is it right to use this text to control others' responses? What is right to do?

Which of Jesus' examples (in v.39-42) most challenge you? Why?

**Would you rather be wronged than fail to love others?** What's one relationship this would change? What's one action this would cause you to take with someone you know?

What's your plan for Application #2? Discuss your plan in pairs if it would help to get some counsel, improve the plan, and stay accountable.

Can you differentiate between responding to wrongs with malice and responding to evil to protect life?

Maybe spend some time considering how/when Jesus calls evil evil or seeks to stop it. Consider the difference between turning a cheek to an insult and turning your eye from wrongdoing. What's the difference between responding to someone when they personally insult you and defending yourself or others from when a physical attack?

# EXTRA HELPS FOR GROUPS

## Help me understand the Scripture we're reading!

### ▶ **What truth about God am I seeing?**

How does He reveal Himself in this passage?  
What can I learn about who He is or what He does?

### ▶ **What details stand out?**

What's repeated or contrasted?  
What's odd or confusing?  
What descriptive words are there? How do they shape the text's meaning or impact?

### ▶ **What is the central idea of the passage?**

What was the author saying here?  
Can you say it in one simple sentence?

### ▶ **How did God intend for His people to respond?**

How did they respond to Him or what He did?  
How should they have responded?  
What was this text supposed to produce in them?

### ▶ **So how should I respond?**

What should this move me to do?  
What should this move us to do together?

## Help me apply what we're discovering in Scripture!

### ▶ **What's the clear take-away?**

Is there a clear promise to count on, command to obey, or example to imitate?  
Is there a sin to avoid or example to *not* repeat?

### ▶ **What do we need to step into?**

How have we avoided this truth?  
What do we need to do now to conform to it?  
Where do I not yet evidence belief or obedience to this part of Scripture?

### ▶ **What do I need to surrender?**

How do I need to trust God and walk forward?  
What new reality do I need to accept and trust God with?  
What costs do I need to embrace to obey?

### ▶ **Am I responding as God intended?**

How did they respond to Him or what He did?  
How should they have responded?  
How should I be responding too?

### ▶ **What accountability do I need?**

How will I know when I've made this change?  
How can others challenge me if they see me go backward on this belief / in this area?  
How can they remind me of my choice today?

### ▶ **What do I need to share?**

Can I encourage a Jesus-centered friend?  
Can I challenge a Jesus-centered friend?  
Can I bring God's truth or hope to someone not-yet-Jesus centered?

## Help our group start talking!

### ▶ **What was most impactful from the sermon?**

What stood out most? Why did that stand out?  
What needs to change in you because of that?

### ▶ **What was most confusing or unsettling?**

What can we do to help you understand it?  
What can we do to help you address that?

### ▶ **Why is it so important that we get this <main idea> and act on it?**

### ▶ **If we really lived in light of this truth, what would be different?**

What would we do differently? Say? Think? Feel?  
We may think we "get it," but does each part of our lives reflect that?

### ▶ **How will you pray differently because of this?**

How will you relate to God differently?  
How will you engage with others (or your relationships, job, etc.) differently because of what you're learning about God?