

# **TURN THE OTHER CHEEK**

**Pastor Steve Odera**

## Matthew 5:38-39

**You have heard that it was said, “Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.” 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.**





# Personal Story

---

Pastor Steve



# World view v Jesus' view

## The Hard Sayings of Jesus

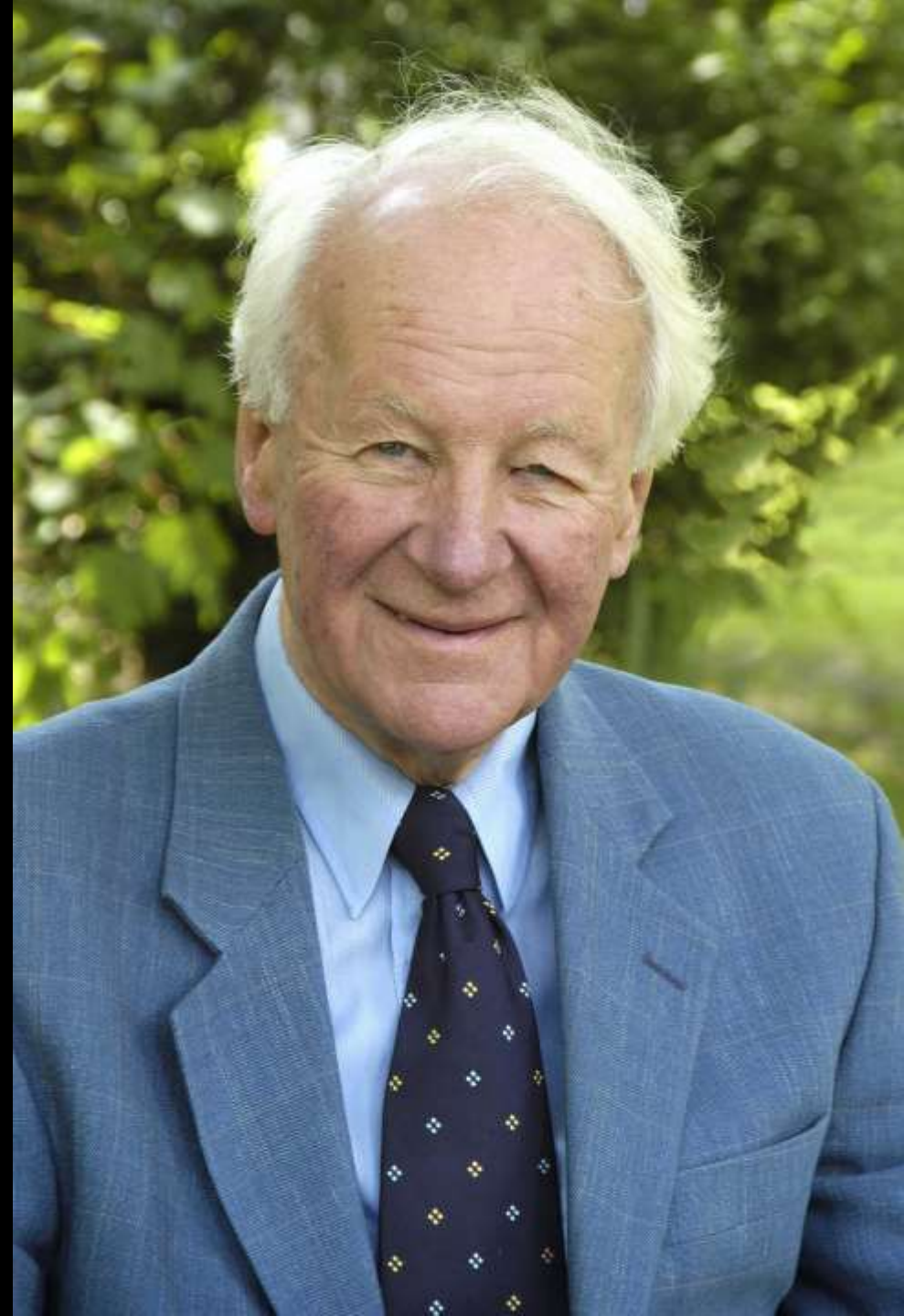
**Sermon on the Mount:**

*Challenging teaching*



# John Stott

**“The sermon describes  
what human life and human  
community look like when they  
come under the gracious rule of God.”**





# Lex Talionis

**Deuteronomy 19:21**

**“Show no pity: life for life,  
eye for eye, tooth for tooth,  
hand for hand, foot for foot.”**



# 1. The Hard Saying



- ❖ Is a Christian supposed to be a “doormat”?
- ❖ Jesus is teaching the contrary

# 1. THE HARD SAYING

**James 4:7**

**Resist the devil and  
he will flee from you.”**





# 1. THE HARD SAYING

a. Why did Jesus use these words?

- Highest cultural value was honour.
- Slap, a way of:
  - demoralizing and
  - dehumanizing

# 1. THE HARD SAYING

## b. “Turn the other cheek”?

### ➤ Jesus calling us to higher law:

- Give up the right to self-worth
- Refuse to retaliate

# 1. THE HARD SAYING

**Romans 12:19**

**“Do not take revenge,  
my dear friends, but leave  
room for God’s wrath,  
for it is written:  
“It is mine to avenge;  
I will repay,” says the Lord.”**



# **1. THE HARD SAYING**

**The implications of being driven by the offence:**

- **Our pride and/or anger take over**
- **It becomes all about us**
- **We forsake God's control**
- **We become jury and judge**
- **We try to exact two eyes for an eye**

# **1. THE HARD SAYING**

- ❖ Jesus wants us to be inspired by love**
- ❖ Describes what life in His Kingdom is like**



## **2. WHY IS IT A HARD SAYING?**

**a.**

- **Our Natural human instinct**
- **Goes against the grain**
- **We need to make ourselves vulnerable**
- **Values of God's Kingdom, counter-cultural**
- **Hearts that are like hard soil**

## **2. WHY IS IT A HARD SAYING?**

**b.**

- **Refusing to avenge, not a natural response**
- **Requires a supernatural intervention**
- **Jesus fulfills this righteousness**
- **Jesus' words draw us to Kingdome values (Rom 12:21)**

## 2. WHY IS IT A HARD SAYING?

**Romans 12:21**

**“Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good.”**



# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Martin Luther King Jr**

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness:  
only light can do that.**

**Hate cannot drive out hate:  
only love can do that.”**



# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

❖ Righteous person:

❖ Freedom rooted in the knowledge that identity and life are found in God.

❖ Personal story

➤ Considerable struggle



# **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

- ❖ **Jesus was the perfect example of turning the other cheek:**
  - **Silent before His accusers,**
  - **Endured pain and suffering**
  - **Didn't fight back**
- ❖ **Only the cross of Jesus can free us from the bondage.**
- ❖ **Strive to emulate Jesus (Matthew 11:29-30)**

# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Matthew 11:29-30**

**“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**



### **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

**❖ Take God at His word and stand on His promises to us.**

# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**John 14:18**

**“I will not leave you as orphans: I will come to you.”**



# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Jeremiah 33:3**

**“Call to me and I will  
answer you and tell you  
great and unsearchable  
things you do not know.”**





# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**2 Peter 1:3**

**“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”**



# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Matthew 6:33**

**“But seek first his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”**



# **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

## **❖ Practical ways we can respond**

### **a. Identify the offender:**

- Put the other person first**
- Love like God loves**
- Disregard your emotions and love intentionally**
- Jesus' response in Matthew 22:36-40**

# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Matthew 22:36-40**

**“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”**



# **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

**b. Consider the heart of the offender:**

- **What could have triggered off the offence?**
- **Could I have contributed to it?**
- **Show grace (Hebrews 4:16)**



# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Hebrews 4:16**

**“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”**



# **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

**c. Rely on prayer. Walk away:**

- **Apologize and walk away**
- **Allow the Lord to minister to your heart**
- **Rely on prayer**

# **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

- ❖ Choose to fully surrender your personal rights to God**
- ❖ We are called to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)**

# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**Matthew 5:9**

**“Blessed are the  
peacemakers for they will be  
called children of God.”**



# **3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?**

**❖ We should be imitators of Christ  
(1 Peter 2:21-23)**

# 3. HOW DO WE RESPOND?

## 1 Peter 2:21-23

**“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”**

