



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 23, 2022

Retaliation

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Matthew 5:38-42](#)

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But 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. ⁴⁰And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

- Why can the idea of **retaliation be so attractive**?
- Jesus quotes [Exodus 21:24](#), where Old Testament Law informs Israel’s judges to recognize the sanctity and worth of life in administering justice. However, **Jesus forbids “an eye for an eye” in personal relationships** within the community. **Why?** What does Jesus know **tempts us as individuals**?
- **Jesus is teaching non-retaliation. Why?** What is the **reason** you would turn the other cheek or go the extra mile?
- Jesus introduces us to **four challenging people**:
 - One who seeks to **insult or injure us** (39)
 - One who **takes us to court** (40)
 - One who **forces us into service** (41)
 - One who **begs or borrows** (42)In each of these cases, Jesus tells us **to forgo revenge or repayment. Why?**
- How do you **personally react** to Jesus teaching? **Why?**
- What was **Jesus’ intent** in saying, “**do not resist the one who is evil**”? (39)
- It is remarkable that the **One teaching set aside revenge and repayment** to pay for our sin. Read [1 Peter 2:18-24](#) to connect the suffering of Christ with our salvation and our discipleship. Can you share **one way the Gospel freed you to not retaliate, forgive others, or love your enemy?**
- **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage.