

Turning the Other Cheek

DAVE BUEHRING | YOUR KINGDOM COME WEEK 5

We are all citizens of God's Kingdom first.

Discipleship: How should we live that we might reflect the King and His ways?

MATTHEW 5:38-42

"Eye for an eye" language in Scripture

- Exodus 21:22 - when a pregnant woman is harmed
- Leviticus 24 - restitution
- Deuteronomy 19 - dealing with a malicious witness

Jesus is separating the difference between what governing authorities are to do vs. our relationships.

The goal: to win the other person's heart that they might come to know Jesus.

Jesus is focused on the law, but He's also focusing on the **attitude of our hearts.**

It's natural to retaliate. It's supernatural to waive the right to do so.

Jesus is **not** saying that we aren't to defend ourselves when attacked.

Practical response vs. verbal response

- We use our tongues as a weapon (either face ot face or behind someone's back)
- Followers of Jesus should have a response that looks different than the rest of the world.
- We need God's help to have a supernatural response.

Waive our rights to:

1. **Revenge:** getting back at someone because they made you suffer
2. **Reputation:** you're not to protect your name or vindicate yourself and counterattack
 - When we step in to do this, we undermine God's ability to do it on our behalf.
3. **Repudiation:** making your enemy look bad or calling them out
4. **Rebuttal:** refuting or disproving what has falsely been used against you
5. **Retorting:** quickly and angrily replying to what someone said or did to you

All these responses grieve the Holy Spirit.

- God wants to be your vindicator. Deuteronomy 32:35
- The cruelest thing you can do to your enemy is to do nothing and open the door for God to step in.

MATTHEW 5:43-48

Loving Your Enemies

- Live out in the light that you have and be obedient to what God has taught you.

Q. Who is your enemy?

A. The person who has hurt or harmed you.

God could be positioning you for the greatest breakthrough of your life.
Are you cooperating with him?

EPHESIANS 6:11-12

- Our "wrestle" is not with people of the world

What does living a life of love look like? A life of **graciousness**.

- The grace of God means getting what you don't deserve.

1. Forgiving them

- Through surrendering to God
- This cannot come through your will alone. It's supernatural and must come from God's help.
- Matthew 6:14-15
- This isn't something you do because you feel like it. You do it because you know it's the ways of God.

2. Praying for and blessing them

- Have you prayed for your enemies? Are you praying blessing over them?
- Something changes in you while you do this.
- Romans 12:14

3. Looking to do them good

- Romans 12:19-21

Write down the names of those you call your enemies and allow God to work in you.

MATTHEW 6:9-13, ESV

Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

