

Radical Selflessness

Matthew 5:38-48

MATTHEW 5:38-42

The Old Testament and Lex Talionis

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' (Matt. 5:38)

The Law of Retaliation was _____ because it limited _____!

Deuteronomy 21:16-21

- The Law existed to curb _____ because of the condition of the _____ of men.
- The intent is to control _____ responses/reactions.
- Retaliation was not typically carried out _____.
- Only the _____ had the authority to enact retaliation.

By the time of Jesus, the rabbis mistaught and misapplied this teaching:

- They falsely taught that retaliation was _____, if not _____.
- They allowed for _____ to enact _____.

The result?

A Higher Standard – Life Under the King

"But I say to you ..." (Matt 5:39a)

4 illustrations:

- 1) The struck cheek – challenges our tendency to "_____"
- 2) The confiscated garment – challenges our tendency to insist on our "_____"
- 3) The forced mile – challenges our tendency to _____ against authority
- 4) The interest-free loan – challenges our tendency to be _____

The implication?

MATTHEW 5:43-48

A Corrupted Standard for Love:

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (Matt. 5:43)

But wait ...

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Lev. 19:18)

So where did they get this (wrong) idea?

The rabbis taught that "neighbor" = only _____. Others were aliens and even _____!

This sort of 'love' was their standard: limited, conditional, and _____.

The result?

God's Standard of Love:

But I say to you, Love your enemies ... (Matt. 5:44a)

God's people are to love _____ – without limits or conditions.

Why?

We display our _____ when we love like He does. (v. 45)

We demonstrate our distinction from the _____ when we love more than they do. (v. 46-47)

The aim?

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (v. 48)

Conclusions:

This isn't just another _____ sermon ...

What God commands requires _____ and the power of the _____ ...

_____ love is the way things one day _____ in the Kingdom ...