

"What Do You Do More Than Others?"

Matthew 5:38-48

7/17/11

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

³⁹ "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

⁴⁰ "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

⁴¹ "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two.

⁴² "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

⁴⁵ in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?

⁴⁷ "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸ "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Goal: ⁴⁵ "in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven"

How, as God's children, do we respond to an evil person?

#1 Do not go on the offensive.

#2 Value and help him.

#3 Pray for him.

The Goal

Leviticus 19:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,

¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

¹⁷ And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*;

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ*.

Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, that we may share His holiness.

How, as God's children, do we respond to an evil person?

Leviticus 19:17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him.

¹⁸ 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 24:17 'And if a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death.

¹⁸ 'And the one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life.

¹⁹ 'And if a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him:

²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him.

²¹ 'Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death.

²² 'There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God.'"

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰ "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

² Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same;

⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

⁵ Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.

¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

¹⁹ For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

²² who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 3:8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

⁹ not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.

¹¹ "And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³ And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.