

How Jesus' People Get Even

Part 10: Kingdom Manifesto

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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the*
right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take
your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one
mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not
refuse the one who would borrow from you." Matthew 5:38-42

Question: *Is Jesus teaching Pacifism?*

Answer Hint: *Lex Talionis*
Whom is Jesus Teaching?

Teaching Emphasis: Human or Demonic evil?
"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

Public Justice or Personal Retaliation?
"For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer." Romans 13:3-4

"Does anyone suppose, that our Lord's hearers understood him to mean that if a homicidal maniac, attempting to murder a third party, tried to knock me out of the way, I must stand aside and let him get his victim?"

C.S. Lewis, Why I am not a Pacifist

Jesus' Kingdom Code: Actively Retaliate?
or, Passively Endure?
or, Generously Bless?

Four Practical Ways that Jesus' People Handle Conflict:

1. I Show Grace when someone Insults Me

But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

2. I Show Grace when someone Cheats Me

⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

3. I Show Grace when someone Abuses their Position

⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

4. I Show Grace when someone Takes Advantage of my Generosity

⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

How can we Live this kind of life?

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8