

True Righteousness
8. Resisting Revenge (Matthew 5 v38-42)

Adam McCulloch

Introduction

- A seemingly impossible, extremely challenging part of the Sermon

Background/Context

- Purpose: What is true righteousness?
- Structure

Biblical Justice (v38)

- 'Eye for Eye' originally used in Exodus 21:22-25, Lev 24:17-22, and Deut. 19:16-21
- Lex Talionis – principal of exact retribution. Used throughout ancient world.

Resisting Revenge (v39a)

- Pharisees' interpretation
- Jesus's correction

Practical Examples of Resisting Revenge (v39b-42)

- Question: Are these examples to be taken literally?
- Honor – v. 39b
- Security – v.40
- Freedoms – v.41
- Money – v.42

Conclusion

Matthew 5 v38-42 (NIV)

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.