

Responding To Evil Matthew 5:38-42

Exceeding The Pharisees

When someone treats you wrong, how do you respond?
Do you react in kind, treating evil with evil?
Do you just stand there and take whatever abuse is given?
What is the proper way to respond to evil?
What is the Gospel of the kingdom concerning vengeance?

An Eye For An Eye?

These statements were laws for civil courts to apply: They were given to guide the priests in meriting out proper punishment - **Deuteronomy 19:16-21; Exodus 21:22-25**
Scribes and Pharisees twisted them to justify personal retribution frequently taking revenge into their own hands -- Just as many people do today!
The law repeatedly forbade "personal" vengeance - **Leviticus 19:18; Proverbs 20:22; 24:29**
In both Old Testament and New Testaments, vengeance was to be left up to God and His duly appointed agent: civil government! - **Romans 12:19; 13:1-4**

Two Principles

Do not resist, turn the other cheek - **Matthew 5:39**
Not only should you not take vengeance into your own hands, but don't even oppose (resist) the evil person when the evil is being done!
Jesus - **1Peter 2:20-23**
Stephen when being stoned - **Acts 7:59-60**
Hebrew Christians "joyfully accepted" the plundering of their goods - **Hebrews 10:32-34**
Do good! - **Matthew 5:40-42**
Jesus illustrates this principle with several examples
Civil suit - **1Corinthians 6:1-8**
Government oppression - **Titus 3:1-2**
Other's Demands - **Philippians 2:3-4; 2Timothy 2:24-25**
Turn into opportunity to do good, demonstrate love by freely giving beyond what they sought by force or oppression! - **Colossians 4:6**
Joseph forgiving his brothers - **Genesis 45:4-15**
David sparing the life of Saul - **1Samuel 24:8-15**
Elisha feeding the army of the Arameans - **2Kings 6:8-23**
We are not to avenge ourselves; but seek to overcome evil with good with hope of turning them to repentance toward God - **Romans 12:17-21**
Does not prohibit using civil authority - **Acts 23:16-21; 25:11**

Not Easy To Exceed

Such teaching goes against "human nature"
Is this to be taken literally? Why not? - **1Thessalonians 5:15; 1Peter 3:9**
We are called to be more like God than men - **2Peter 1:3-4; Matthew 5:45; Luke 6:35-36**
Must take on the challenge to resist evil and do good!

EO/JLH