

HOW ARE BELIEVERS TO RESPOND IN DIFFICULT PERSONAL INTERACTIONS?

“You have the right to remain godly”

Matthew 5:38-42

- I. **REJECT WHAT THE JEWS HAD BEEN TAUGHT CONCERNING THEIR PERSONAL RIGHTS: Take revenge, an eye for an eye... (38)**
 - A. They used the law as their **justification for personal retaliation** (Ex.21:24 Lev. 24:17-20, Deut 19:19-21).
 - B. The Law interpreted in its right context (Duet 19): The just consequences for wrongdoing were mediated in a civil not personal context.

- II. **OBEY WHAT GOD SAYS CONCERNING ONES PERSONAL RIGHTS:** Commands that illustrate **THE PROPER RESPONSE** for believers to multiple personal situations **(39-42)**
 - A. The Kingdom response **WHEN YOU'RE PERSONALLY WRONGED: Do not retaliate! (39)**
 1. The negative command: Do not stand resist the evil mans (insults) (39a)
 2. What are we to do instead? The positive command in an illustration (39b)
 3. What about pacifism, self defense, resisting evil or evil men ...Remember Jesus illustration is not about physical violence but personal insult!
 - B. The Kingdom response **WHEN YOU'RE PERSONALLY WRONG: Rightly repay and be willing to go above and beyond so as to facilitate reconciliation. (40)**
 - C. The Kingdom response **WHEN YOU'RE PERSONALLY and RIGHTLY OBLIGATED: Don't just do the minimum...go above and beyond what is required (41)**
 - D. The Kingdom response **WHEN NOT PERSONALLY OBLIGATED: Be gracious and compassionate (42)**