

Loving Instead of Retaliating
Matthew 5:38-48
January 24, 2016

Main Point:

When you were His enemy, Jesus loved you; therefore, instead of retaliating, love your enemies.

1. Though you are prone to retaliate, Jesus says you must not.
2. Instead, you must love even your enemies.
3. Loving your enemies is a defining characteristic of a child of God.
4. You can love your enemies because, when you were His enemy, Jesus loved you.

Mark Ross “In their [scribes’ and Pharisees’] view, it permitted retaliation in kind whenever one suffered a wrong – paying back the offender with everything he deserved (and perhaps more).”

Romans 12:21 ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NKJV)

John Murray “[Common grace is] every favor of whatsoever kind and degree, falling short of salvation, which this undeserving and sin-cursed world enjoys at the hand of God.”

Alfred Plummer “To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine.”

Sinclair Ferguson “God’s people should be different. It should be obvious that we are extra-ordinary, for our Father is extra-ordinary. This is what Jesus means when he tells us to be ‘perfect’ like the Father. He’s not assuming we can reach moral perfection in this life. Rather, he is reflecting on the way in which the love of the Father is demonstrated in its perfection in the way he loves his enemies.”

J.C. Ryle “A child should be like his father: but where is our likeness to our Father in heaven if we cannot show mercy and kindness to everybody? Where is the evidence that we are new creatures, if we lack charity?”

Isaiah 50:6 ⁶ I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. (NKJV)

1 Peter 2:22-23 ²² “[Jesus] committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously. (NKJV)

Romans 5:6-8, 10 ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (NKJV)