

The Fifth Antithesis – Part 1

Matthew 5:38-39a

Verse 38 Once again we will find that that the Jewish leaders cited the Old Testament teaching:

Exodus 21:22-25

Leviticus 24:19-20

Deuteronomy 19:16-21

Verse 39a Jesus counters the Pharisaic teaching with a focus on *individual responsibility* toward others, which indicates that He was responding to what the scribes and Pharisees had been telling *individuals* to do.

First, Jesus stressed not only that we should not take vengeance when wronged, but that we shouldn't even *resist* those who wrong us. But, in stressing that we should not take vengeance into our own hands, He was once again not teaching anything *new*, but was simply teaching what *the Old Testament already taught*.

Leviticus 19:17-18 (See verse 43)

Deuteronomy 32:35-36a (Romans 12:17-19)

Proverbs 20:22

Second, the Greek word here is masculine and should be taken not as a reference to evil as such, but to an evil man or person.

Matthew 4:8-11

Matthew 12:22-29

Matthew 16:21-23

Galatians 2:11-13

Ephesians 6:11-13

James 4:7

1 Peter 5:8-9

Recall also Matthew 5:10-16.