

An Eye for an Eye

Matthew 5:38-42 ...38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5:38–42 (LBLA) — 38 *Habéis oído que se dijo: «OJO POR OJO Y DIENTE POR DIENTE».* 39 *Pero yo os digo: no resistáis al que es malo; antes, a cualquiera que te abofetee en la mejilla derecha, vuélvele también la otra.* 40 *Y al que quiera ponerte pleito y quitarte la túnica, déjale también la capa.* 41 *Y cualquiera que te obligue a ir una milla, ve con él dos.* 42 *Al que te pida, dale; y al que desee pedirte prestado no le vuelvas la espalda.*

- promote pacifism
- conscientious objection to military service
- condemnation of law enforcement
- tolerance of criminal behavior
- the promotion of anarchy
- and many other beliefs.

Matthew 5:20- 20 *'For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5:20 (LBLA) — 20 *Porque os digo que si vuestra justicia no supera la de los escribas y fariseos, no entraréis en el reino de los cielos.*

What Moses Taught about Dealing with Evil

- verse 38: *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'*
- Verse 38: *“Habéis oído que se dijo: «OJO POR OJO Y DIENTE POR DIENTE»”.*
- Exodus 21:22-25;
- Leviticus 24:19-20;
- Deuteronomy 19:15-21.

- Exodus 21:22-25: 22 *If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. 23 But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.*
- Exodus 21:22–25 (LBLA) — 22 *Y si algunos hombres luchan entre sí y golpean a una mujer encinta, y ella aborta, sin haber otro daño, ciertamente el culpable será multado según lo que el esposo de la mujer demande de él; y pagará según lo que los jueces decidan. 23 Pero si hubiera algún otro daño, entonces pondrás como castigo, vida por vida, 24 ojo por ojo, diente por diente, mano por mano, pie por pie, 25 quemadura por quemadura, herida por herida, golpe por golpe.*

Note the judicial setting for this passage.

The last phrase of verse 22 says, "...*He shall pay as the judges decide.*"

This instruction was given for settling matters in court.

Not concerning an individual to an individual

- Exodus 21:22-25: 22 *If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, **and he shall pay as the judges decide.*** 23 *But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.*
- Exodus 21:22–25 (LBLA) — 22 *Y si algunos hombres luchan entre sí y golpean a una mujer encinta, y ella aborta, sin haber otro daño, ciertamente el culpable será multado según lo que el esposo de la mujer demande de él; **y pagará según lo que los jueces decidan.*** 23 *Pero si hubiera algún otro daño, entonces pondrás como castigo, vida por vida, 24 ojo por ojo, diente por diente, mano por mano, pie por pie, 25 quemadura por quemadura, herida por herida, golpe por golpe.*

- Leviticus 24:19-20: *19 And if a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him.*
- Leviticus 24:19–20 (LBLA) — *19 »Si un hombre hiere a su prójimo, según hizo, así se le hará: 20 fractura por fractura, ojo por ojo, diente por diente; según la lesión que haya hecho a otro, así se le hará.*

- Deuteronomy 19:15-21: 15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed. 16 "If a malicious witness rises up against a man to accuse him of wrongdoing, 17 then both the men who have the dispute shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who will be in office in those days. 18 And the judges shall investigate thoroughly; and if the witness is a false witness and he has accused his brother falsely,
- Deuteronomy 19:15–21 (LBLA) — 15 No se levantará un solo testigo contra un hombre por cualquier iniquidad o por cualquier pecado que haya cometido; el caso será confirmado por el testimonio de dos o tres testigos. 16 Si un testigo falso se levanta contra un hombre para acusarle de transgresión, 17 los dos litigantes se presentarán delante del SEÑOR, delante de los sacerdotes y de los jueces que haya en esos días. 18 Y los jueces investigarán minuciosamente; y si el testigo es un testigo falso y ha acusado a su hermano falsamente,

- *19 then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you. 20 And the rest will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such an evil thing among you. 21 Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. 21 Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death.*
- *19 entonces le haréis a él lo que él intentaba hacer a su hermano. Así quitarás el mal de en medio de ti. 20 Los demás oirán y temerán, y nunca más volverán a hacer una maldad semejante en medio de ti. 21 Y no tendrás piedad: vida por vida, ojo por ojo, diente por diente, mano por mano, pie por pie.*

Verse 18

**"the judges shall
investigate thoroughly."**

- **First**, it was fair in that the punishment matched the crime.
- **Second**, it was merciful in that it limited man's propensity to overreact and take retribution beyond that which the offense deserved.
- **Third**, it served as a deterrent to further crime and thus, protected society from the escalation of lawlessness.

But what about cases of injustice outside the court of law?

- Exodus 23:4 *"If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him."*
- Proverbs 25:21 *"If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink...."*
- Proverbs 24:28-29 *"Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips. Do not say, 'Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me...'"*

**“I will render to the man
according to his work.”**

What the Scribes and Pharisees Taught.

- 1 Peter 1:14-15 - "*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior...*"
- 1 Peter 1:14–15 (LBLA) — *14 Como hijos obedientes, no os conforméis a los deseos que antes teníais en vuestra ignorancia, 15 sino que así como aquel que os llamó es santo, así también sed vosotros santos en toda vuestra manera de vivir*"

What Jesus Taught about Resisting Evil.

- verses 39-42: 39 *"But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you."*
- 39–42 (LBLA) — 39 *Pero yo os digo: no resistáis al que es malo; antes, a cualquiera que te abofetee en la mejilla derecha, vuélvele también la otra. 40 Y al que quiera ponerte pleito y quitarte la túnica, déjale también la capa. 41 Y cualquiera que te obligue a ir una milla, ve con él dos. 42 Al que te pida, dale; y al que desee pedirte prestado no le vuelvas la espalda.*

- The first thing to notice about the examples Jesus used here is that none of them are life threatening.
- A second point to consider is that even though Jesus said these things in our text, we don't find Him dismantling the courts of law in His day or denouncing just law enforcement.
- He submitted to both and instructed us to pay our taxes to support both.

- *"I tried and tried to please him and every time I did he just slapped me down."*
- *"She always puts me down."*
- Matthew 5:40- *40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. NKJV*
- Matthew 5:41- *41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. NKJV*

Matthew 5:42- Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

Matthew 5:42 (LBLA) — 42 Al que te pida, dale; y al que desee pedirte prestado no le vuelvas la espalda.

- Deuteronomy 15:7-8: 7 *"If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; 8 but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks.*
- Deuteronomy 15:7–8 (LBLA) — 7 *Si hay un menesteroso contigo, uno de tus hermanos, en cualquiera de tus ciudades en la tierra que el SENOR tu Dios te da, no endurecerás tu corazón, ni cerrarás tu mano a tu hermano pobre, 8 sino que le abrirás libremente tu mano, y con generosidad le prestarás lo que le haga falta para cubrir sus necesidades.*

1 Timothy 6:18-19

18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:18–19 (LBLA) —

18 Enséñales que hagan bien, que sean ricos en buenas obras, generosos y prontos a compartir, 19 acumulando para sí el tesoro de un buen fundamento para el futuro, para que puedan echar mano de lo que en verdad es vida.

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 - *10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat. 11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.*
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12 (LBLA) — *10 Porque aun cuando estábamos con vosotros os ordenábamos esto: Si alguno no quiere trabajar, que tampoco coma. 11 Porque oímos que algunos entre vosotros andan desordenadamente, sin trabajar, pero andan metiéndose en todo. 12 A tales personas les ordenamos y exhortamos en el Señor Jesucristo, que trabajando tranquilamente, coman su propio pan.*

Psalm 37:21 – *“The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives.”*

Psalm 37:21 (LBLA) — *21 El impío pide prestado y no paga, mas el justo es compasivo y da.*

- **First**, we need to be forbearing because we serve and represent a God who is forbearing.
- **Second**, we don't have to exact vengeance for every wrong done to us.
- **Third**, Like our God, we need to be ready to dispense grace to a world that does not know or understand it.