

1 

Go the
Second Mile

2 

Matthew 5:38-42

- *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asks thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.*

3 

Central truths

- Jesus teaches us:
 - Demonstrating God's love should be our supreme motivation in every situation.
 - Difficult and inconvenient situations and even persecution are opportunities to invest in the lives of others.

4 

OT limitation on judgment

- The Old Testament placed limitations on judgment—" *life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*"
 - Exodus 21:22-24—" *If a man strive and hurt a woman with child*"
 - Leviticus 24:19-20—If someone causes injury to his neighbor.
 - Deuteronomy 19:21—Concerning one bringing a false accusation against his neighbor.

5 

The perversion of the law

- By Jesus' day, these Old Testament limitations on judgment were seen instead as justifications for retaliation.
- "Don't get mad...get even!"
- People had forgotten that vengeance belongs to the Lord—not to man.

6 

Jesus' new focus

- Focus on demonstrating God's love to our offenders rather than on personal retaliation.
- "*Never look for right in the other man, but never cease to be right yourself Never look for justice, but never cease to give it.*" – Oswald Chambers

7 

Are we to resist evil?

- Resist means "to stand against; to oppose"
- Jesus says in Matthew 5:39 that we are not to resist evil, but turn the other cheek.
- Yet we are told to resist the devil:
 - James 4:7--*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
 - 1 Peter 5:9--*Whom resist steadfast in the faith ...*
 - So what is the difference?

8 

Resolving the resistance riddle

What kinds of evil are we not to resist?

9 

Spiritual warfare vs. Retaliation

- We are to resist the devil always.
- However, Jesus does not want us to retaliate for the evil other men do to us.
 - There is a difference between retaliation and self-defense or defense of one's family.
- How then will evil doers be punished?

- Vengeance belongs only to God (Romans 12:19).
- Civil authorities are to administer God's justice (Romans 13:1-8) while we are to demonstrate the love of Christ.

10 **What are we not to resist?**

- Three "evils"
 - A slap in the face
 - A lawsuit
 - A civil regulation
- One Situation
 - A needy neighbor
- Proverbs 20:22—*Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.*

11 **Slapped for righteousness**

- The best reason to be slapped is for a righteous stand.
 - The prophet Micaiah was slapped for speaking God's truth.
 - *"But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?"*—1 Kings 22:24

12 **Slapped for impertinence**

- You can be slapped for being disrespectful or impertinent.
- The Apostle Paul was slapped for insulting someone he did not know was serving as the High Priest (Acts 23:1-5)

13 **Jesus was slapped**

- Luke 22:64—*"And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?"*
- When Christ was slapped, He responded in love in order to show His offenders the power of God's love.
- We are to have fellowship with Christ's sufferings.

14 **A legal problem**

- Jesus addresses the case of a man being sued in court by one who had a legal claim against him.
- The wisest thing to do in this case is to *"Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison"* – Matthew 5:25.

15 **If you lose the case . . .**

- Do not only give what the judge requires (the coat) but give more also (the cloak).
- The cloak was all a poor man had for protection at night and therefore could not be lawfully taken from him (Exodus 22:25-27).
- Jesus taught that it was worth giving up our most essential possessions in order to win the hearts of people for Him.

16 **Jesus was taken to court**

- An angry, unruly mob charged Him.
- Judges ruled against Him.
- He willingly suffered humiliation—even losing His cloak that His mother had made for Him.
- Jesus willingly suffered death by crucifixion because of His love for the very people who

were killing Him.

17 **An inconvenient civil regulation**

- The Jewish nation was under Roman rule with Roman soldiers everywhere.
- The Roman soldiers carried heavy backpacks.
- A law allowed any Roman soldier to require a Jewish boy to carry his heavy pack for one mile in any direction.
- Any boy who refused could be punished.

18 **Conquering compassion vs. Complaining compliance**

- Jews hated this law but Jesus does not tell them to simply obey with a fake smile.
- He tells them to volunteer to carry the pack for a second mile.
 - The first mile you are the servant.
 - The second mile you are the master.
 - The first mile fulfills an obligation.
 - The second mile invests something of value into the life of that Roman soldier.

19 **Jesus was compelled to carry a burden**

- He was told by Roman soldiers to carry His cross down the *Via Dolorosa* to Golgotha.
 - The cross is heavier than any backpack any soldier would ever carry.
 - He staggered under the weight.
- He did this voluntarily because He knew it was necessary to provide our salvation.

20 **The needy neighbor**

- 2 Corinthians 9:7—“*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*”
- Give to the necessities of others as a way of investing in their lives to make a difference—not for the motive of personal reward.

21 **Jesus gave**

- Throughout His ministry, people asked Jesus for help only He could give. He not only gave, but went on to give His life for them.
- Jesus paid Temple taxes He did not owe—because He was King of all the earth.
 - He did it to remove stumbling blocks to His message.
 - Matthew 17:24-27

22 **Matthew 17:24-27**

And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes.
And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?
Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.
Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

23 **Why go the second mile?**

- Where our treasure is, there is our heart.
- If we give only what is required, we never develop love for others.
 - Giving more than the court requires develops love for our adversary.

– Walking a second mile develops love for the soldier and fellowship with Him.

24 **Only meeting requirements is unprofitable for us**

- Luke 17:7-10—“*But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*”

25 **He that hath ears, let him hear**

- A student who does only what is required by the teacher will never love learning or be a great student.
- An employee who only does what is required never becomes a valued employee.
- Only when we go beyond what is required do our lives become truly profitable to God and to others.

26 **Jesus and Israel**

- 1
 - Born in the promised land
 - Fled to Egypt for survival
 - Learned obedience to authority (Hebrews 5:8-9)
 - Was baptized and the Holy Spirit came upon him
 - Wilderness testing for 40 days
 - Power to conquer evil
- 2
 - Began in the promised land
 - Went to Egypt for survival
 - Learned obedience to authority (Exodus 3:7)
 - “Baptized” through the sea and a cloud came to guide them
 - Wilderness testing for 40 years
 - Power to conquer the promised land

27 **Conclusions**

- To live a profitable life, we should do and give more than required in order to invest in the lives of others.
- Suffering will be required to produce power in our lives.
- Christ is our supreme example (1 Peter 2:21-24).
- Demonstrating Christlike love is more important than the sacrifice required.

28 **Questions:**

- How can I go the second mile in:
 - Personal insults?
 - Legal attacks?
 - Civil regulations?
 - Needs of neighbors?
- Can I see opportunities in the hurtful actions and words of others to demonstrate God’s love?
- What are some circumstances where I have been wrong in retaliating and should have trusted God to defend me?