

Series: Sermon on the Mount
Title: Be the Children of Your Father
Text: Matthew 5: 38-48
Date: September 20, 2009
Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

Matthew 5: 38: Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

This law of God is founded in justice. In a proper court of law, the magistrate was to hand down fines which were equitable.

Exodus 21: 23:...thou shalt give life for life, 24: Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Yet, in daily affairs between the believer and all men, the rule of law promotes revenge, malice, retaliation, and an unforgiving spirit. Our King Jesus would have the private dealings of every believer to be ruled by the Spirit of grace and love and not the rule of law. The believer conquers by patience instead of by law. Non-resistance and forbearance is the rule of the believer.

Matthew 5: 39: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil:

When it comes to personal bodily injury:

V39: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

When it comes to personal possessions:

Matthew 5: 40: And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.

When it comes to personal liberty and giving to governments what is required of you, not trying to evade taxes and such:

Matthew 5: 41: And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

When it comes to serving others:

Matthew 5: : Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

The fulfilling of the law of God is love to our neighbor. This is what the law stated. But those who falsely interpreted the law added a second part:

Matthew 5: 43: Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44: But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

While an enemy is cursing you, bless him. While he hates you, do good to him. While he despitefully uses you and persecutes you, pray for him. This is what our Savior says it is to love your enemies.

Are you a child of God? Are you born of the Spirit of your Father? Then walk in the Spirit:

Matthew 5: 45: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Are you merely a child of Adam? Are you merely walking after the spirit of the flesh? This is the character of the world, in verse 46:

Matthew 5: 46: For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47: And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so?

Our standard is not our fellow man, but our Father in heaven.

Romans 5: 6: For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7: For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God gave his only begotten Son, not for those who had strength to do good to him but only evil. God gave his only begotten Son, not for those who regarded him as their friends, but God was an enemy to us. We were not righteous, we were not even merely good, we were ungodly sinners. But God commendeth his love toward us.

1 John 4:10: Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Now look at verse 45:

Matthew 5: 44: Love your enemy...45: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven:

CONSIDER THE CHILD OF GOD, GOD THE SON

Matthew 5: 39: 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.

In laying down his life for you, believer, the righteous Son of God did not resist evil.

Isaiah 53:7: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Luke 22:64: And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?

Isaiah 50:6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Matthew 5: 40: And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have *thy* cloke also.

God had a suit against us. We broke the whole law of God. And when Christ came WE took him to the court of law, crying, "We have a law!" Yet, he gave not just a coat, not just a cloak, but he laid down his life and robed us in the garment of his own righteousness.

Matthew 5: 41: And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

We complain about government. The government of God was on his shoulder. We complain that our taxes are being used to pay the way for others. The law of God compelled him to pay what was due to God for us. He went beyond by not only paying in full, he made us kings and priests unto God.

Matthew 5: 42: Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

What has he given to you, brethren? We cursed him, he blessed us. We hated him, he did us good. We despitefully used him, and he everliveth to make intercession for us.

John 1: 16: And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Matthew 5: 48: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

In Christ Jesus, we are perfect—

- Holy and without blame before God in the Son of his love
- Accepted in the Beloved
- It is God that justifieth
- It is Christ that died, yea, rather that is risen again who ever liveth to make intercession for you
- In the Son of God we are as perfect as God's own Son.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:...6: He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

I SAY UNTO YOU

This is Christ Jesus, the Captain of our salvation speaking. This is the Author and Finisher of our faith who is speaking. He is speaking unto “you”—unto “us” who have been washed in his blood and forever set apart by his grace and love toward us—sons of God.

1 John 3:1: Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:

Matthew 5: 48: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Ephesians 4: 32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. 5: 1: Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.

Amen!