

The Sermon on the Mount: Going the Extra Mile

Matthew 5:38-42

📖 Matthew 5:38–42 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

The Law said that the punishment had to match the crime.

📖 Matthew 5:38 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’”

📖 Leviticus 24:19–20 (NIV) “If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him:²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, so he is to be injured.”

- ❖ Justice is getting what you deserve.
- ❖ Mercy is not getting what you deserve.
- ❖ Grace is getting what you do not deserve.

“Turning the other cheek” is about insults, not assaults.

📖 Matthew 5:39 (NIV) “But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

📖 John 18:22–23 (LB) “One of the soldiers standing there struck Jesus with his fist. “Is that the way to answer the High Priest?” he demanded.²³ “If I lied, prove it,” Jesus replied. “Should you hit a man for telling the truth?”

📖 Proverbs 16:7 (NIV) “When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at peace with him.”

“Giving your cloak” is about settling things, not prolonging them.

📖 Matthew 5:40 (NIV) “And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”

📖 Exodus 22:26–27 (NIV) “If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, return it to him by sunset,²⁷ because his cloak is the only covering he has for his body. What else will he sleep in? When he cries out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.”

“Going the extra mile” is about choice, not obligation.

📖 Matthew 5:41 (NIV) “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”

📖 Matthew 27:32 (NIV) “As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.”

📖 Colossians 3:23 (NLT) “Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”

“Giving to the needy” is about blessing, not risking.

📖 Matthew 5:42 (NIV) “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you”

📖 Deuteronomy 15:7–10 (NIV) “If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother.⁸ Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs.⁹ Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: “The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near,” so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the Lord against you, and you will be found guilty of sin.¹⁰ Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”

Digging Deeper— When you hear, “an eye for an eye,” what comes to mind? Of the 4 illustrations that Jesus gives, which one is the hardest for you to accept? Give an example of what “going the extra mile” might look like today. Have you ever been insulted and not retaliated? What is the hardest thing Jesus has asked you to do? What is God asking you to do today?