

DON'T RETALIATE, LOVE ACTIVELY

September 7th 2014 Matthew 5:38-48 by Ben Skeat
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 13

Main Idea: Gods people see the world differently to others.

Jesus says:

<i>Gods Kingdom people</i>	<i>They bless the wicked</i>
<i>Do not retaliate, ever</i>	<i>And love when it's not deserved</i>
<i>Vengeance is not theirs</i>	<i>They copy their Father</i>

³⁸ “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 anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. **Matthew 5:38-48**

- **How do you respond when you are wronged?**
- **How do you treat your enemies?**

1. Evil is real and we all have ENEMIES

Who is your enemy?

2. When evil comes DON'T RETALIATE

If your pride is wounded, put it out of its misery!

- God resists the proud...(Jas 4:6)
- ...have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...(Phil 2:5)
- In humility, value others above yourselves... (Phil 2:3)
- God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7)

3. Gods perfect love is the model for us to IMITATE

For God so loved the world that he gave... (John 3:16)

God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ... (Eph 2:4-5)

“In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” (Matt 5:48 MSG)

- Who is your enemy?
- What choices can you make to de-escalate the situation and even bring reconciliation?
- What choices can you make to bring Gods love to a person or situation?
- **Pray!**

