

LETTING DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS DEEPEN US.

October 29, 2017 Matthew 5:38-48 by Bob Branch
Building A Deeper Life In A Shallow World, Part 8

BIG IDEA: We naturally withdraw from relationships with friction, conflict or pain, when God may be using them to mature and deepen us.

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’

Exodus 21:24

Responses: internalize, react passively/actively, hostility

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.

Jesus addresses:

- When we’re **offended** (the other cheek)
- **Treated unjustly** (being sued)
- Being **Pushed**/Put upon (2nd mile)
- Being **financially manipulated** (giving/borrowing)

1. **LEAN INTO** conflict, not away. *Move in their direction.*

2. Respond to injustice with **GENEROSITY**.

“a radically and dangerously unprotected life.”

3. Show extravagant **KINDNESS** when being pushed.

4. Live open-hearted, open-handed, & **OPEN-WALLETED** toward the world.

“One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” **Proverbs 11:24-25**

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?

“At one time you were far away from God and were his enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. But now, by means of the physical death of his Son (Jesus), God has made you his friends...” **Col. 1:21-22** GNB

⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

telios, fully grown, mature, complete.

“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.” **Mathew 5:48** MSG