



Questions for Application for the Week of March 17, 2014
Part 6 - Revenge Is Hollow. Be Generous. - Matthew 5:38-42

1. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," protected both the offended party and the offender. It served to bring justice and limit abuse. What does this law reveal about the heart of God? What other passages speak to God's concept of/or desire for justice and what do they reveal?

2. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," a law designed to ensure equity in the courtroom began to be applied in interpersonal relationships. Can you identify a time in your life when you responded "an eye for an eye" in conflict with another? What is the danger in us doing so?

3. Jesus' words "Do not resist the one who is evil" (Mt. 5:39a) initially challenge our concept of justice. While Jesus is not discouraging standing up for another who is being wronged, he is challenging us when we are personally offended to simply let it go. In what ways is Christ glorified when we do so? What could be the impact if the church consistently obeyed this direction?

4. Jesus gave four practical illustrations of his "greater righteousness".
- i. Let it go when insulted. Mt. 5:39b
 - ii. Let it go when defrauded. Mt. 5:40
 - iii. Let it go when taken advantage of. Mt. 5:41
 - iv. Let it go when appealed to. Mt. 5:42

While Jesus is certainly not creating a new set of "rules" to be followed, he is giving practical examples of the direction the transforming work of the Holy Spirit will direct his people. Which of these four will you find most difficult personally and is there one you could have employed in the last week? What was the situation and now in the light of Scripture, how would you have liked to handle it differently?

5. Read Philippians 3:7-8. How does this passage encourage and focus our attention on why we are studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and why is it particularly encouraging in this specific topic?