



"Retaliation"
Week 8 in an 11-week Series

Preached: November 2, 2025
Scripture: Matthew 5:38-42
Series: "Sermon on the Mount" – Week 8 of 11
Also: Communion Sunday

SECTION 1 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Think of a recent time when you were wronged. How did you respond — and how might this passage challenge or encourage you to respond differently next time?
2. What was the original purpose of the "eye for an eye" law in the Old Testament? What happens today when people adopt this kind of life philosophy in their dealings with others?
3. How do Jesus' instructions here differ from the common cultural attitudes toward justice and revenge?
4. What examples does Jesus give to illustrate His teaching, and what do they have in common? Can you relate to any of the examples he presents in your own life?

5. Why do you think Jesus calls His followers to “not resist an evil person”? What might He be trying to teach them with this instruction?
6. What does “turning the other cheek” look like in practice? Do you think this instruction works in an online conflict? Why or why not?
7. Does this teaching challenge your natural sense of fairness or justice? What can you do with this tension?

SECTION 2 – PRAYER

What practical steps can you take this week to embody Jesus’ teaching in your daily life? How might others in your group pray for you in this challenging endeavor? Pray for each other that you might find the strength and wisdom to respond with grace instead of retaliation.

SECTION 3 – SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

There may be a situation in your life that hangs over you where you have wanted nothing more than to get back at the person who wronged you. You are always looking for an opportunity – or you are hoping beyond hope that that wrong-doer in your life would suffer or “get theirs.” Bring that to Jesus. And bring it to Jesus. And bring it to Jesus. Pray about your continued “letting go” of that desire for revenge. Ask for help with that extra bit of holding on to what you do. It may not be a one-and-done kind of endeavor – it may be a long process. But Jesus honors those who make an effort to honor him.