

## The Gospel of Matthew

**“Kingdom Righteousness”**  
**Matthew 5:38-42**

## Gospel of Matthew

Review:

### 1. Matthew's Purpose/Theme

- to show that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of David, who came to inaugurate the kingdom of heaven
- Theme: “the kingdom of heaven”

## Gospel of Matthew

Review:

### 2. First Discourse: *Sermon on the Mount*

- theme: “righteousness of the kingdom” (*kingdom living in a fallen world*)
- Key statement: Matthew 5:20

## Matthew 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said, ‘**AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.**’

But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two.

Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”

## “Turn the other Cheek”

### 1. What did the Law teach?

- *lex talionis* – the judicial principle of equivalent recompense (Ex. 21:23-25; Lev. 24:17-22)
- purpose – to administer justice, deter crime and prevent personal revenge

*Principle for public justice not personal retaliation*

## “Turn the other Cheek”

### 2. How was this Law being distorted?

- using this law to justify personal retaliation
- using this Law to justify a spirit of revenge and protection of one's own interest

### “Turn the other Cheek”

---

3. What did Jesus teach?

- *Principle of “non-resistance”* – goes beyond simple non-retaliation

### “Turn the other Cheek”

---

3. What did Jesus teach?

- *“Turn the other cheek”*
  - in the place of defending one’s honor, He sets the willingness to suffer insult

### “Turn the other Cheek”

---

3. What did Jesus teach?

- *“Give him your coat also”*
  - in the place of defending one’s rights, He sets uncalculating generosity

### “Turn the other Cheek”

---

3. What did Jesus teach?

- *“Go the extra mile”*
  - in the place of begrudging servitude, He sets willingness to go beyond what is required

### “Turn the other Cheek”

---

3. What did Jesus teach?

- *“Give to him who asks”*
  - in the place of protecting one’s goods, He sets concern for others

### “Turn the other Cheek”

---

3. What did Jesus teach?

- Summary: *kingdom righteousness is exhibited by a freedom from self-interests, even the foregoing of rights for the sake of showing kindness*

## **“Turn the other Cheek”**

---

Resources for this Righteousness:

1. We received mercy from God – we did not get what we deserved
2. Vengeance belongs to the Lord – perfect justice will be done (Rom. 12:17-21)