

Sermon Notes

The Unusual Responses of Jesus-followers

Matthew 5:38-42

by Christian Sanich, 5/18/2025

There may be Q&A at the end as time allows. So note your questions.

5:38 Jewish tradition and the Old Testament actuality behind it
(ref.: Exodus 21:12-36)

If someone wrongs us personally, we are not necessarily to give the penalty they deserve. We definitely don't get back at people who wrong us (see Rom. 12:17-21). In our giving and doing for people, we are often to give/do more and than what we have to.

5:39 Turn the other cheek.

We should be able to let someone wrong us, insult us, even harm us, and we don't need to retaliate.

When other Christians do wrong, we don't just drop it.
(see Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5, 6:1-11)

5:40 Let them have the shirt off your back, but also more.

When you do wrong, make it right, and even go beyond.

5:41 Go the extra mile.

Even if it's inconvenient. Even if you don't like the person.

5:42 Give to individuals who ask.

Even beyond our regular giving

Summary:

We are not to give people what they may deserve for a personal offense.

We are to give people what they are due, when we owe it to them, and even go beyond.

We are not to just do what people can demand of us. We are to do extra.

Generally, we are to go above and beyond what people expect.

We are to do the surprising thing.

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

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