

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***  
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

***Standing on the Promises of God - -***

**Jeremiah 29:12-13** 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

---

**The “Mind of Christ” includes what three things?**  
(1 Corinthians 2:16)

**The Kingdom Standards of Righteousness (Matthew 5) - -**

1<sup>st</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Murder (vv. 21-26)

2<sup>nd</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Adultery (vv. 27-30)

3<sup>rd</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Divorce (vv. 31-32)

4<sup>th</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Vows (vv. 33-37)

**5<sup>th</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Vengeance/Retaliation (vv. 38-42)**

6<sup>th</sup> Kingdom standard regarding Love (vv. 43-47)

**Vengeance** - *Punishment inflicted in retaliation for an injury or offense* (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

**Matthew 5:38-42**

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

- A reference to **Exodus 21:24**
- A section of the Law that deals specifically with personal injury (**Exodus 21:12-36**)

**vs. 39** “But I say to you,

The Lord raises the standard of righteousness from the Age of Israel, regulated by the Law, to the standard of righteousness for the kingdom that He will rule.

“Do not resist” - μή + ἀνθίστημι – ANTHISTEMI - “to oppose, to withstand, or set oneself against another”

“... an evil person” - τῷ πονηρῷ - “wicked or degenerate” person

“... but whoever **slaps** you on your right cheek. . .” - ῥαπίζω – “to strike someone with an open hand”

**40** “If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

**41** “Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. *Forced service!*

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

**Exodus 21:12-29**

"He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. <sup>13</sup> "But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee. <sup>14</sup> "If, however, a man acts presumptuously toward his neighbor, so as to kill him craftily, you are to take him even from My altar, that he may die. <sup>15</sup> "He who strikes his father or his mother

shall surely be put to death. <sup>16</sup> "He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death. <sup>17</sup> "He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. <sup>18</sup> "If men have a quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die but remains in bed, <sup>19</sup> if he gets up and walks around outside on his staff, then he who struck him shall go unpunished; he shall only pay for his loss of time, and shall take care of him until he is completely healed. <sup>20</sup> "If a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod and he dies at his hand, he shall be punished. <sup>21</sup> "If, however, he survives a day or two, no vengeance shall be taken; for he is his property. <sup>22</sup> "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. <sup>23</sup> "But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. <sup>26</sup> "If a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he shall let him go free on account of his eye. <sup>27</sup> "And if he knocks out a tooth of his male or female slave, he shall let him go free on account of his tooth. <sup>28</sup> "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall surely be stoned and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall go unpunished. <sup>29</sup> "If, however, an ox was previously in the habit of goring and its owner has been warned, yet he does not confine it and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death.

➤ This section is called the **Law of Retaliation**

This Law accomplished a few things - -

1. It **protected** the innocent.
2. It **prevented** personal retaliation.

- Are the injuries or penalties figurative here in Exodus?
- Why would the Lord speak figuratively in our passage in **Matthew 5:38-42**?
- Does the Law permit a slave to strike his master after being hit in the face?

**Exodus 21:26-27**

"If a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he shall let him go free on account of his eye.

**Who is the innocent in this case?**

The slave whose eye has been destroyed

**What is the penalty for the [*wicked or evil*] master?**

He has to set the slave free.

<sup>27</sup> "And if he knocks out a tooth of his male or female slave [*by slapping them*], he shall let him go free on account of his tooth.

- The Law protects the innocent.

**The Principle** - The innocent are not to retaliate because the Law stipulates the penalty for the striker.

**Matthew 5:38**

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'

<sup>39</sup> "But ***I am saying*** to you, do not resist an evil person [***set yourself against or oppose a degenerate, wicked person***] but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

➤ This is a **Kingdom principle** -

- ✓ Why would one turn the other cheek?
- ✓ So the wicked person could slap *the other cheek* as well.
- ✓ To turn the other cheek requires **humility**.
- ✓ To turn the other cheek also demonstrates **patience and dignity**.

**Why was the slave under the Law not permitted to strike his master back?**

Because the Law dictated the penalty against the guilty party

**What is Jesus Christ doing in this portion of the Sermon on the Mount?**

Raising the Bar of *righteousness*. . .

- The kingdom subject is not to resist!
- The kingdom subject is not to retaliate!
- The Lord will insure **perfect** justice is executed in His kingdom.
- Therefore, the kingdom subject is not to retaliate when wronged.

**40** “If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt [in the kingdom], let him have your coat also.

**41** “Whoever forces you to go one mile [forced service], go with him two.

The kingdom subject will go the extra mile because of his character.

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

**How can the kingdom subject give his coat to the one who wants to sue him and take his shirt?**

**How can he go an extra mile with someone?**

**How can he give and not turn away from him who wants to borrow?**

**How can he turn the cheek/not strike back after being slapped?**

- He is righteous.
- He is genuinely humble.
- He entrusts everything to his King.

**The King is not asking anyone to do anything that He has not already done Himself!**

**1 Peter 2:21-24**

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, **22** WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; **23** and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but **kept entrusting** Himself to Him who judges righteously; **24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

**Sounds as if the kingdom subjects will have the MIND OF CHRIST.**

---

*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*