



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 06.10.2018

Recap:

- The concept of Lex Talionis, the law of retaliation, or what the Bible calls an eye for an eye all throughout history from us can be traced back to the British, to 1754 BC to the Code of Hammurabi, which predates what Moses wrote in Exodus.
- The law of retaliation was helpful for the Israelites and other developing societies because it was supposed to put a cap on the escalation of revenge.
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus wants to progress the laws of the culture. Jesus is saying that the law of retaliation doesn't work because in our hearts we escalate revenge.
- "Do not resist an evil person" does not mean we should be pushovers, but instead, we should be active participants in nonviolent resistance.
- Jesus's examples of how not to resist an evil person are intended to force the aggressive to reconsider his/her view and treatment of the wronged person.

Discuss:

1. Share a time in which you wanted to retaliate against someone who has wronged you. What happened? Did your actions escalate the situation?
2. READ Matthew 5:38-42.
3. When you hear Jesus say, "Do not resist an evil person," what comes to mind? Do you think following this statement would make someone seem like a pushover?
4. How is this passage difficult to follow?
5. How does this passage show how Jesus intends us to be participants in nonviolent resistance to wrong done against us?
6. How could not responding to mistreatment with violent retaliation help our relationship with an aggressor?
7. How does this passage demonstrate God's grace and mercy?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Revenge

- Proverbs 10:12, Proverbs 24:17-22
- Luke 9:51-56
- 1 Peter 3:8-21