

## Ice Cream For Dummies

Matthew 5:38-42

- I. A Disciple’s Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
- II. A Disciple’s Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
- III. **A Disciple’s Righteousness** (5:17-48)
  - A. The Kingdom Standard: Must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (5:20)
  - B. Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:21-48)
    1. Murder: Replace anger/abusive speech with reconciliation and nurture of persons and relationships
    2. Adultery: Replace lust with purity of heart expressed in love that cares for (not uses) the other.
    3. Divorce: Replace hard-hearted hostility with servant-hearted faithfulness.
    4. Oaths: Replace deceitful evasion with reliable promise-keeping (integrity).

### Illustration #5: Retaliation

**The Commandment** – “*But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot...*” (Ex 21:23-24)

#### I. An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth (Mt 5:38)

Why?

a. **Squelch Personal Revenge**

- i. An emotionally biased retaliation is expressly forbidden
- ii. Victim’s Rights
- iii. Deter evil-doers

b. **Accomplish Justice**

- i. God set up a judicial system which was meant to preserve the less fortunate, less popular, and oppressed. (oppressed might conceivably get a worse sentence)
- ii. Once justice is done, the matter is settled

#### II. Four Examples (Mt 5:39-42)

Offender	Fight	Flight	Grumble	Offer More*
Cheek <u>Slappers</u>	<u>Hit back</u>	Run away	Curse them	Turn the other cheek
Tunic <u>Snatchers</u>	<u>Go to court</u>	Not an option	Soil Tunic	Give ‘em your cloak
Time <u>Hijackers</u>	Yeah right!	Not an option	Count every step out loud	<u>Go the extra mile</u>
<u>Pan Handlers</u>	Refuse	Ignore	Give Reluctantly	<u>Give More</u>

*\*Offering more exposes the offender as evil, hence their great surprise.*

### III. The Worldly (Empire) Response

#### a. Resistance is not...

- i. Resisting sin and temptation (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9)
- ii. Resisting retaliation on behalf of a third party
- iii. Allowing crime
- iv. Being a doormat

#### b. Resistance is...

- i. Personal Vengeance (“You hit me, I’ll hit you back!”)
- ii. Entitlement (“I deserve this”)
- iii. Grumbling and Bitterness (I’ll do it, but I’ll make you sorry)

### IV. The Godly (Kingdom) Response

#### a. The Fourth Option is an example of...

- i. Righteous Taunting (Rom 12:19-20)
- ii. Expressing True Values (1 John 2:15)
- iii. Enduring Suffering (1 Peter 2:23)
- iv. Selfless Love (1 John 4:9-10)
- v. Extending Grace (Rom 5:8)

#### **Romans 12:19-21**

*[19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” [20] To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”*

#### **1 John 2:15**

*[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

#### **1 Peter 2:22-24**

*[23] When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*

#### **1 John 4:9-10**

*[9] In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

#### **Romans 5:8**

*[8] but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*