

*“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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. Matthew 5:38-42 (ESV)*

## Turn Your Cheek

That’s tough. **What’s tough?** It is difficult to turn the other cheek to someone that is mistreating me. That is not my first inclination. That is not my natural response to someone who has hurt or harmed me. **What has been your natural inclination and first response to those who have mistreated you?** I have wanted to secure revenge. I have wanted to repay every evil that has ever been committed against me. I have wanted to settle accounts. I have wanted to get even. I have wanted to inflict as much pain as I can to those who have hurt or harmed. **Has doing that made you feel better? Has doing that brought great benefit to your life?** No, I have never felt better when I have sought revenge. No, seeking revenge has never brought any benefit to my life. **How often have you actually sought revenge?** Not very often, probably hardly ever. I can’t remember a time when I have actually sought revenge. **But, you have contemplated seeking revenge. You have deeply considered ways you could seek revenge.** Yes, that’s true. **Isn’t that just as much a waste of time and effort as actually seeking revenge?** Yes, it is.

**You mentioned your natural inclinations.** Yes, I did. **Is that how you want to live your life? Do you want to live your life by your natural inclinations?** No, I don’t want to live my life by my natural inclinations. I don’t want to do simply what comes naturally to me. **Why is that?** My natural inclinations are worldly. My natural inclinations are sinful. My natural inclinations stand in opposition to you. You are calling me to live a supernatural life that is empowered by your Holy Spirit. **Yes, I am. Turning your cheek to someone who mistreats you is a supernatural inclination. Going inconveniently far out of your way to serve another person is a supernatural inclination. Giving to those who want to beg or borrow from you is a supernatural inclination. Will you do these things for me?** Yes Lord, I will. I will rely on your Holy Spirit to help me to live the supernatural life that you are calling me to live. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, turning the other cheek has not been my first inclination when I have been mistreated. I have wanted to repay evil committed against me with evil. Forgive me. Help me to turn the other cheek to those who mistreat me so that I can be a witness for you. Amen*

**God's Will***Do Not Resist*

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

NIV

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Do Not Resist*

"You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

NLT

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Do Not Resist*

"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 an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

NRSV

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Do Not Resist*

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 the evil man [who injures you]; but if anyone strikes you on the right jaw or cheek, turn to him the other one too. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your undershirt (tunic), let him have your coat also. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two [miles]. Give to him who keeps on begging from you, and do not turn away from him who would borrow [at interest] from you.

AMP

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Do Not Resist*

"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 an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. "Whoever forces 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.

NASB

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Do Not Resist*

"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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

ESV

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Not To Resist*

"You have heard that it was said, '*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.*' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

NKJV

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Don't Hit Back*

"Here's another old saying that deserves a second look: 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.' Is that going to get us anywhere? Here's what I propose: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

MSG

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Don't Resist Violence*

"The law of Moses says, 'If a man gouges out another's eye, he must pay with his own eye. If a tooth gets knocked out, knock out the tooth of the one who did it.' But I say: Don't resist violence! If you are slapped on one cheek, turn the other too. If you are ordered to court, and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat too. If the military demand that you carry their gear for a mile, carry it two. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

TLB

Matthew 5:38-42

**God's Will***Don't Stand Up Against*

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you, don't stand up against an evil person. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek also. If someone wants to sue you in court and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. If someone forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two miles. If a person asks you for something, give it to him. Don't refuse to give to someone who wants to borrow from you.

NCV

Matthew 5:38-42

# Do Not Resist

Year \_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

God's Will – Matthew 5:38-42

In Context: Read Matthew 5

Begin With Prayer:

**Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.**

**Meditating On God's Word:** (What is God speaking to your heart?)

"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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. Matthew 5:38-42 (ESV)

**Considering The Words:** (What words speak to your heart?)

"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 | the one | who is | evil. | But if | anyone | slaps you | on the | right cheek, | turn | to him | the other | also. | And | if anyone | would | sue you | and | take | your tunic, | let him | have | your cloak | as well. | And if | anyone | forces you | to go | one mile, | go with him | two miles. | Give | to | the one | who begs | from you, | and | do not | refuse | the one | who would | borrow | from you. Matthew 5:38-42 (ESV)

**Praying The Scripture:** (What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, turning the other cheek has not been my first inclination when I have been mistreated. I have wanted to repay evil committed against me with evil. Forgive me. Help me to turn the other cheek to those who mistreat me so that I can be a witness for you. Amen

**What It Means:** (What questions speak to your heart?) (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

When have you wanted to repay an offender for every evil they have committed against you?

How has repaying an offender for evil done against you ever benefitted your life?

**How difficult has it been for you to turn the other cheek when someone has mistreated you?**

When have you willingly gone inconveniently far out of your way to serve another person?

How has turning the other cheek to those who have mistreated you allowed you to be a witness for Jesus Christ?

**When have you recently turned the other cheek to someone who has mistreated you?**

**How has the Lord been developing a humble and giving attitude within you so you can bear fruit for Him?**

**Living It Out:** (What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Turn the other cheek when someone mistreats you so that you will be able to be a witness for Christ.

**Seeing It Happen:** (What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will help you to be a witness for Him by turning the other cheek when you are mistreated.

**Get Ready To Share:** (What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how turning the other cheek has helped you be a witness for Christ.

**Close With Prayer:**

**Quiet Yourself Before The Lord**

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration...

Thanksgiving...

Confession...

Intercession...

Petition...

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you turn your other cheek to someone who mistreats you, so you can be a witness for Jesus Christ.*

---

---

---

---

**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will turn my other cheek to those who mistreat me, so I can be a witness for you.*

---

---

---

---

**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how do I need to turn my other cheek to those who mistreat me today?*

---

---

---

---