



# SERMON on MOUNT the Matthew 5-7

# twitter

The Tweet? - Mark 10:25 (118 Characters)

# "Do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."



# Matthew 5:39-42

But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.



# Why is it Here?

# Jesus can't be serious!



# If I am being beaten did Jesus really mean don't defend myself?



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If somebody holds me up in the Walmart parking lot, asks for my wallet, should I say "sure, oh and here are the keys to my truck, and if you have a moment, we can stop by Sheetz and fill it up and wash it before you are on your way?"



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Does he actually expect me to live above what people expect of me going two miles when they ask for one?

If somebody asks do I really just always be ready to say yes?



- If somebody asks do I really just always be ready to say yes?
- Do I actually just loan with out a true expectation of repayment?



- If somebody asks do I really just always be ready to say yes?
- Do I actually just loan with out a true expectation of repayment?
  - If I applied it that way
  - Constantly bullied
  - No need to buy anything because I would just be required to let people steal it
  - Constantly being taken advantage of
  - Christians would be broke, beaten and destitute





# Is that what Jesus intended?





#### **Inconsistent with Jesus' actions**



# IMHO --- NO!

#### **Inconsistent with Jesus' actions**

#### Inconsistent with Jesus' teaching *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves"*

#### Matthew 10:16





#### Sheep amongst Wolves (Aware & Attentive)



# Jesus Taught

#### Sheep amongst Wolves (Aware & Attentive)

#### Shrewd Snake (Shrewd not Poisonous)



# Jesus Taught

- Sheep amongst Wolves (Aware & Attentive)
- Shrewd Snake (Shrewd not Poisonous)
- **Innocent Dove (Innocent not Battered)**



# Jesus Taught

Followme!

- Sheep amongst Wolves (Aware & Attentive)
- Shrewd Snake (Shrewd not Poisonous)
- **Innocent Dove (Innocent not Battered)**
- Mixing these three images together gives us a great image of a healthy Christian
  - 1. Smart enough to avoid conflict
  - 2. Able to wait patiently for God
  - 3. Gentle enough to approach a situation with care

#### "Do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."

# Avoiding Vengeance is a part of the teaching



# This section of scripture is all about dealing with people

But as we reach here Jesus is taking about dealing with people we may not see eye to eye with or even be in conflict with

# In that context his statements touches on the priorities of Grace and Mercy

# Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal well being



# Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal well being

Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal rights



- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal well being
- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal rights
- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal time



Followme!

- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal well being
- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal rights
- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal time
- Grace and Mercy is a higher priority than my personal possessions

Followme!

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:43-48

# MANY amongst Christian faith see "Enemies"



# Jesus draws a line in the sand love your enemy

# Therefore, the more enemies you see the more call there is to love



#### Love is about commitment



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#### In this case Love is not about turning enemies to allies



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- Love is about allowing our enemies to see Jesus in us



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- But the verses we just covered tell us this has to go far beyond prayer and into tangible actions



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Action that is counter culturally then and now

# The idea was not to create door mats, but to open doors



