

WHAT ABOUT RETALIATION?
(Matthew 5:38-42)

- I. The Legal PRINCIPLE (5:38)
 - A. Stated that punishment should MATCH the CRIME
 - 1. To serve as a crime DETERENT (Deut. 19:20)
 - 2. To prevent EXCESSIVE punishment
 - B. Applied to CIVIL rather than CRIMINAL law
 - 1. TRIAL and SENTENCING was handled by a JUDGE or a representative body of CITIZENS
 - 2. PUNISHMENT frequently carried out by the VICTIM
 - C. Intended to establish LIMITATIONS
 - 1. It was a JUST law
 - 2. It was a MERCIFUL law
 - 3. It was a BENEFICENT law
- II. The Traditional PERVERSION (Prov. 25:21; cf., 24:29)
 - A. Demanded RETRIBUTION in EQUAL measure
 - B. Turned God's LAW into individual LICENSE
 - C. Replaced true JUSTICE with personal VENGEANCE

III. The Divine PERSPECTIVE (5:39-42)

A. Stating the basic principle of NON-RETALIATION (5:39a)

1. Resisting evil is REQUIRED in the CHURCH (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:13; Gal. 2:11; 1 Tim. 5:20)
2. Resisting evil is REQUIRED in the GOVERNMENT (Rom. 13:4; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)
3. Resisting evil is FORBIDDEN as an act of individual VENGEANCE (Rom. 12:17, 19)

B. Regarding violations of one's DIGNITY (5:39b)

1. We are not to STRIKE BACK when INSULTED
2. We are to tolerate ADDITIONAL INSULT

C. Regarding violations of one's SECURITY (5:40)

1. We are to PAY all legitimate CLAIMS against us
2. We are to be WILLING to pay MORE

D. Regarding violations of one's LIBERTY (5:41)

1. We should SUBMIT to LEGAL infringement
2. We should be willing to DOUBLE the legal MAXIMUM

E. Regarding violations of one's PROPERTY (5:42)

1. We are to be GENEROUS, not SELFISH
2. We are to be COMPASSIONATE, not UNCONCERNED