

Turn the Other Cheek Matt. 5:39-42

39 But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person;

Literally, this says: “you are not to set yourself against one who does evil”. We are not supposed to seek our own _____ against them, or insist on it (Rom 12:17-21). How we exceed the _____ of the law is by doing good for those who’ve wronged us.

Unless someone is “poor in spirit”, understanding their need for a savior, “mourning” for their low spiritual state “meek” and in submission to God”, “hungering and thirsting after righteousness”—unless they really are a Citizen of Heaven, then they’re not going to be _____ to follow Jesus’ command.

We will sometimes be called by God to allow our _____ rights to be infringed upon by another person in order to exceed the righteous requirements of the law. In each of Jesus’ examples today, we’re going to see this _____ to His disciples to lay aside personal rights in order to

_____ make a difference between ourselves as Citizens of Heaven, and those only interested in fulfilling the minimum _____ requirements of the law. Jesus gives us a _____ to either follow the flesh and insist on our rights, or obey Him.

but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also.

First, Jesus addresses an attack on our _____—a slap on the face. It’s about _____ pride. In our society, it’s much more likely that you’ll be attacked verbally, _____ or bullied publicly, isolated or excluded from friends, family, or a work or social environment. It demands a choice on our part. Will we insist, or will we swallow our pride, and ask Jesus for _____ in obeying Him and turning the other cheek? It’s up to us. To _____ or not. By turning the other cheek, it

_____ the person persecuting us to acknowledge that we have made the _____ not to seek our own revenge. By turning the other cheek, we are forcing the person to re-consider beating up on someone who is not _____ them—and only the most calloused people enjoy being bullies. Usually the _____ would stop there, and the person would learn that Christians

behave differently than others—which would get them _____ about the self-control and wisdom displayed by the Christian. It’s not about how much abuse we can endure, it’s about giving a powerful _____ of a life transformed by Christ that is difficult to deny.

40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

This addresses our reaction in an attack against our physical _____. The idea here is that you’re so poor that the only thing that someone can legally sue you for is the _____ off your back. Anyway, Jesus is saying even in this extreme situation if you’ve done something wrong and deserve to be sued, it’s better that you give him not only what’s _____ to him in payment, but go above and beyond, and give him your _____ too. So, for Jesus to say this is the same as saying if necessary, give up your _____ rather than taint Christ’s name. Go above and beyond the _____ of the law.

41 Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

A third attack on our basic human rights, can be to deny us our _____. In Jesus’ day there was a law that a Roman soldier could lay his sword upon someone’s shoulder as a sign that he was _____ them to carry their burden for them. Most often when a Roman soldier did this, it would be to carry his _____ pack. But the law said that he could never ask any one citizen to carry it more than one _____. And you can bet that any Jew compelled to carry the hated Romans’ pack would be just looking to make _____ that they didn’t carry it one inch farther than a mile. The soldiers were the ones _____ their brethren and enforcing the awful Roman laws. And then Jesus says “go two miles”. I wonder how many talks about _____ began after a Christian “went the extra mile” and the Roman just had to ask him “Why?”

42 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Lastly, Jesus says, don’t be concerned about your _____. When there’s someone who has a need and they ask, we ought to _____ their need. James 2:15-16 says **15 If a brother or**

sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"

By meeting their needs you demonstrate your _____ in God to provide for you.

Now, as we consider these 4 examples of Jesus aimed at helping us walk in the

Spirit, not in the flesh, we realize that the only way that we're going to be able to do what Jesus tells us to do in these verses is to take up our _____ and follow Him. (see Gal 2:20-21; Rom 6:1-3).

In other words, when insisting on our rights interferes with the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, we lay aside our rights so that Christ may be glorified (1 Cor 9:4-7). We have rights, we have liberties as Christians, but we should never _____ on those rights if it gives Christ a bad name, or if they cause another to sin (Rom 14:13). If we indulge our freedoms, and insist on our rights, and end up putting a stumbling block in front of someone trying to follow Jesus, then we're not _____ in love.

Compare and contrast 2 biblical opportunities to turn the other cheek, and see how they turned out for the Glory of God: In Acts 23:1-5. Paul is slapped and gets angry, and he _____ his temper, and he also loses the moral high-ground. But in nearly same situation in front of the Sanhedrin and the same high priest Ananias (also called Annas). We look to our supreme example Jesus during his illegal trial in John 18:20-23. Jesus did not insist on his rights, he did not repay evil for evil, he did not resist an evil person, he just gave them an answer that would make them think about the _____ of justice that was occurring. Notice that He did not _____ either, because He had done nothing wrong. Even though these people were in the very act of arranging for His murder, He continues to _____ them to God, and to doing the right thing.

This is what it means to _____ to self. To allow ourselves to become less so that Jesus is _____. We must decrease so that He can _____. When you're insulted, ridiculed, offended, or excluded it is an opportunity to show the _____ that Jesus has made in your life. Your heart can be happy, since you have been counted _____ to suffer for Christ, because He can trust you to deny yourself. When your good is evil spoken of, when you are thwarted, when evil people oppose you, remember: they have _____ God, not you. Keep the faith- -that is dying to self. And when you lovingly and _____ bear any injustice any provocation, you can _____ it, just as Jesus endured it, by turning the other cheek, and dying to self.