

Introduction: Pg. _____

?Intro: Ken Lewis Question.

**“2 Mile People”
Matthew 5:38-48**

The Point: Surprise people with selflessness by going the second mile.

Preview: How we respond to those who oppose us is the common thread in these two sections.

I. 2 Mile people selflessly sacrifice for the good of others (38-42).

Explain the OT principle — 38

- Jesus begins by stating the OT law of retribution (lex talionis) ... echoing the truth found in...
- **“The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you. Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.” (Deuteronomy 19:18-21)**
- The goal was bringing current justice and curbing future injustice (“the rest shall hear and fear...”).
- Punishment should fit the crime.
- If you do that, you deserve for it to be done to you.
 - You steal my Charlie Card with \$30. You get your Charlie Card with \$30 taken from you.
 - You break my leg. You get your leg broken.
- This was given in a public legal context, but people began using it for license for personal revenge and vendettas.
- Not revenge. Justice.

- We experience wrong, we experience injustice, we experience evil - here’s our response... REACT! And usually - dish back what we’ve received!
- Jesus says: don’t react. Respond. And respond like this... verse 39.

Explain the New Principle — 39a

- What “typifies the kingdom”?
 - 1) Surprisingly: Not retaliating
 - This principle of nonresistance or nonretaliation means in effect that the believer refuses to descend to the level of the aggressor and return evil for evil.
 - 2) Shockingly: seek to be generous to those who seek to take from us. (Rw)
- Again he formally abrogates an Old Testament command in order to intensify and internalize its application. (But I say to you!)
- NOTE: “Jesus is speaking about personal abuse, and personal self-sacrifice” (Carson) - Does not negate the need for self defense.
- Pacifism...
- “On the surface it seems to reject the principle of justice, and many have rejected it throughout history (e.g., liberation theologians) for that reason. However, most agree that Jesus is speaking at the level of personal vengeance rather than legal rights. This principle of nonresistance or nonretaliation means in effect that the believer refuses to descend to the level of the aggressor and return evil for evil.” *(Osbourne)

- “¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To 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.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”¹ (Romans 12:17-21)
- Answer evil with good!
- “Now Jesus teaches the principle that Christian kindness should transcend even straightforward tit-for-tat retribution.” (Blomberg)
- T: Expounds with four illustrations/examples

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. \(2016\). \(Ro 12:17–21\). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.](#)

Illustrations (in reverse order of severity: goes from tougher to easier — admire the wisdom of Jesus. Be in awe of the wisdom of Jesus. If you are not yet a Christian - by which I mean you've given total control of your life over to God through the love and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, then consider if this is not a man so full of divine wisdom that he must be fully divine!)

- Turn the other cheek
 - Act of violence
 - Insult: more insulting than being slapped with the palm of the hand. Its an exceptionally explicit sign of dismissing a person – it telling him / he not worth anything
 - **Isaiah 50:6**
- Cloak too
 - “Here there is a legal situation involving a lawsuit (“to sue” [κριθῆναι]) demanding “the inner garment or tunic” (χιτῶνα). The “outer garment” (ιμάτιον) was the more important, used not only as a cloak but also as bedding when sleeping in the open fields.” (Blomberg)
 - Not only your shirt, your coat too, which would have functioned as your bedding.
 - {P} Lay down our rights... “Even those things which we regard as our rights by law we must be prepared to abandon.” (Carson) (See above - law said even the poor should be able to keep their cloak - outer garment/coat)
 - {P} Lay down our best... What’s going on? Jesus says: don’t even give them your _____, give them the _____. Give the more prized possession.
- Mile 2
 - Compelled action (by force)
 - Roman soldiers had the right to conscript civilians to carry burdens for them (e.g., Simon in Mark 15:21, who bore Jesus’ cross), but the practice was despised by the Jewish people.¹¹ The actual term μίλιον refers to a thousand steps, which was almost a mile. Jesus’ point fits the idiom “go the second mile” quite well. It pictures the believer offering to carry the load even further if the soldier so wishes.
 - Burlington Mercedes Benz... above and beyond... (comes standard)
- Give and do not refuse
 - 42: Give to the one who asks... All the time? Homeless? Every time?

Why? In this, we surprise them, even shock them, when we show them kindness overpowers malice. Forgiveness overpowers shame. Love overpowers hate! Love always wins! Then... you create an indelible impression in their minds. Something is up with them. No one does that. Everyone is focused on themselves. What’s in it for them. What is wrong with that person!

II. 2 Mile people love like God loves us (43-47).

- Explain the OT principle (Leviticus 19:18) and cultural reality (43)
- Explain the heightening of the way of Jesus (44)
 - Love your enemies...
 - The human heart naturally loves those who love them.
 - Ex. I got swag. Oh, you got swag.
 - Great job on that project. You too.
 - You love me. I’ll love you.
 - You scratch my back. I’ll scratch yours.
 - Jesus says: you stab me in the back - I’ll take a bullet for you!
 - APP: demand maintaining the same attitude toward outsiders that one has for insiders in the community.
 - And pray for those who persecute you.
 - Why pray?
 - Vengeance.
 - Remember who you were!
 - Bring in stories of persecution...
- Reflect the heart of God: &
 - So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven (Gospel-Motivated)
 - Example: 45b
 - God does good to his enemies: Sun & Rain (common grace to all)
 - Christians do the hard.

- Almost all people look after their own. The true test of genuine Christianity is how believers treat those whom they are naturally inclined to hate or who mistreat or persecute them.²
- God loves his enemies
 - Evidence: You see the sun? You see the rain? They get it too! Common Grace.
 - Do you ever ask: Why do bad things happen to good people?
 - We could also ask: Why do good things happen to bad people? (Common grace. God gives to all of humanity that which we do not deserve. Just because someone is experiencing an easy life now doesn't mean that God is blessing them, pleased with them, or will exempt them from the judgment that everyone of us will face.)
- 46-47...
 - IF you love...
 - If you greet...
 - "Greet" (v. 47) refers to more than a simple hello, namely, heartfelt "expressions of desire for the other person's welfare."³ (Gundry)
 - Distinct!
 - Christians must love their enemies (v. 44). Otherwise they are no different than tax collectors and pagans, two groups classically despised by orthodox Jews—the first for working for Rome in collecting tribute from Israel and the second because of their false religion (v. 46)

Luke 23:34 - "Father, forgive them..." CROSS.

- Our temptation is to limit our love. The love of Christ is Love without Limits!
- App: How can you be a 2 mile Christians (gospel)? How can we be a 2 mile church?
 - Family: who can you surprise by going 2 miles? Work? Enemy?
 - Church: Group? Serve (2x/mo)? Emma Group. 6 x 2! Times 2 Let me double that!!
 - 2 mile people don't stop. In Christ, there are no mile markers! Keep serving, keep loving, keep giving, keep going above and beyond.
 - This happens when we love people more than money, comfort, and safety *and* when we have faith in God to care for us even when there's not much left in the bank and even when it hurts.
- How can we do this?
 - When we love people — more than money
 - When we love people — more than our comfort
 - When we love people — more than our own protection.
- How can we do this?
 - When we have faith in God to take care of us, even when it hurts,
 - ... even when there's not much left in the bank,
 - even when we just don't feel like it!

We keep running the second mile!

III. 2 Mile people make God their standard, not people (48).

- Applies to all antithesis - stretches back to verse 20.
- Verse 48
 - Perfect" here is better translated as "mature, whole,"
 - Jesus is not frustrating his hearers with an unachievable ideal but challenging them to grow in obedience to God's will—to become more like him.

Here's the message...

- God is the standard! (3x)
 - Not the Pharisees. Not any person!
 - Image based society - always looking around... God, not People.
 - "Comparison is the root of all inferiority." - Chip Judd
 - Comparison happens
 - Forget our Identity (in Christ)

² Blomberg, C. (1992). [Matthew](#) (Vol. 22, pp. 114–115). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

³ Blomberg, C. (1992). [Matthew](#) (Vol. 22, p. 115). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- Leading to Insecurity
- Manifests itself in Jealousy
- Reveals Idolatry. (We're holding else up someone else as our standard)
- Run in my lane: (who I am, what I'm called to)
- Story: first years of planting RHC - comparing to other CPs
- Such freedom in making God our standard!
 - Counterintuitive: feels impossible (therefore, oppressive). Any more than: 1 Pet 1:16 (Be holy); John 13:34 (Love as I have loved you); Eph 4:32 (forgive as you have been forgiven)?
 - Frees us to focus on him. Reveals our need. Makes turn to him.
 - We are what we behold (2 Cor. 3:17-18)! Spend time. (How much?) Poor, Hunger and Thirst. Pure. The whole S.o.M. - Consistent heart trans, not empty ritual.

Praise is the highway to the throne of God. Worship our way into revival.

- God is the heart of the law. All fruit is the fruit of the Spirit.
- This is impossible. We need God in us to live the life of God. All grace!!
 - See Hughes on Uses of the law...
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Conclusion:

Who can you surprise by going 2 miles?

Above and beyond comes standard.