



Minutes With Jesus

Straight Talk From The Savior
About The Things That Matter Most

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APRIL 3

“Straight Talk About Your Enemies”

MATTHEW 5:38-48

Introduction: Let’s face it, loving people who hate you and “turning the other cheek” to those who want to destroy you is not a popular idea. How are we to understand and apply Jesus’ commands in a culture in which restraint is seen as a vice and retaliation is viewed as a virtue?

I. **Three Key Distinctions For Understanding Matthew 5**

A. **Vengeance vs. Justice**

Definition: Vengeance is a desire to hurt someone else for hurting me.

Romans 12:19 “Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,’ says the Lord.”

Definition: Justice is payment God or others may demand from those who have wronged me.

Isaiah 1:17 “Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”

Romans 13:4 “It [government] is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.”

B. **Individuals vs. Government**

C. **Rights vs. Responsibilities**

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Philippians 2:3-5 ³ “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”

II. Release, Don't Retaliate (Matthew 5:38-42)

Matthew 5:38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’”

A. Release Your Right to Dignity (Matthew 5:39)

Matthew 5:39 “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.”

B. Release Your Right to Property (Matthew 5:40)

Romans 12:19-20 ¹⁹ “Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,’ says the Lord. ²⁰ ‘BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.’”

Matthew 5:40 “If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.”

C. Release Your Right to Autonomy (Matthew 5:41)

Matthew 5:41 “Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.”

D. Release Your Right to Money (Matthew 5:42)

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Matthew 5:42 “Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.”

Luke 6:35a “Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.”

III. Love, Don't Hate (Matthew 5:43-48)

Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’”

Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

A. Love Makes Us Like God (Matthew 5:44-45)

Matthew 5:44-45 ⁴⁴ “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons [and daughters] of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

B. Love Makes Us Different from the World (Matthew 5:46-48)

Matthew 5:46 “If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Matthew 5:47 “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”

Matthew 5:48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Conclusion