

THE KING SPEAKS

a Study in the Sermon On The Mount | Discussion Guide

Week 7 – October 28

Beyond Getting Even | Matthew 5:38-48

Introduction

There's a phrase that Jesus repeats six times throughout his sermon. It's found in verse 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, and 43. It introduces six different applications of the truth that righteousness begins in the heart and then extends to our outward actions.

It's this phrase... *You have heard that it was said... But I tell you...*

Read Matthew 5:38-48 and find where Jesus uses this phrase before beginning this week's study.

Questions for Study (You may find this study more challenging than others.)

1. Looking back on your childhood, do you have any memories of having a major meltdown because of something you thought wasn't fair? Any fun (or perhaps, not so fun) stories of your own children doing this?
2. Do you have any memories of being bullied by another person or being the bully toward others? How did this impact you? If you were the bully, how do you think it impacted the lives of those you bullied?
3. Perhaps you have a son or daughter who's facing this now in his or her life. What counsel are you giving to them on how to deal with it?
4. How about a time when you wanted to get even with another person for something hurtful they did to you. Have any of those times?
5. What about friendship. Do you have any struggle with only wanting to like people who like you and only wanting to like people who are likeable?
6. Where in the Old Testament do we find the statement Jesus quoted in verse 38? What was God's intention in giving this law?
7. Any idea on how this law was being used incorrectly by the religious leaders living during the time Jesus gave this sermon?
8. How did Jesus correct this faulty application? What did he say we're to do for the person who doesn't have our best interests in mind?
9. Where in the Old Testament do we find all or part of what Jesus said in verse 43?
10. How were those individuals who Jesus quoted in verse 43 making a faulty application of what God really did say in the Old Testament?
11. What applications should we make from this passage? (verses 38-48)
12. Why is it possible for us to do what Jesus said we should do?