

Matthew 16 – The Second Mile

Matthew 5:38-42

Fallen Condition Focus (FCF): We want to live within the narrowly defined walls of duty and assert our own rights, but Jesus calls us by His example to go the second mile.

Intro

Leviticus 24:19-20 If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him, ²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him.

- *Lex talionis* – law of retaliation
- Designed to restrain impulse for revenge – forbids escalation
- But Jesus teaches that for Christians restraint is not enough, he calls us to a much greater sacrifice

Point 1 – Do not resist evil

- What does it mean?
 - We know that we are called to resist evil at some times
 - There must be justice in society
 - Called to resisting injustice

Point 2 Going the second mile

- We can receive an insult without returning it
- We can give up our rights instead of asserting them,
- We go above and beyond what is required in serving others, even our enemies
- We can live lives characterized by generosity toward others.

Point 3 Why do we do all of this?

- There is no reason given! Jesus doesn't say
- We are called to live like this because Jesus called us to it, and because Jesus lived it out Himself
 - Palm Sunday
 - Trial and humiliation
 - Jesus did not take his own vengeance
 - God of the universe subjected Himself to torture and did not respond to protect Himself
 - Not self centered but other centered, not seeking his own gain, but yours

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

John 15:20 A servant is not greater than his master