

*Daily devotions for  
2019*



**Day 19**  
Matthew 5  
Sermon on the Mount  
Pt4

*38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*  
Matthew 5:38-42 (NIV)

Parents have certain catchphrases. Among them are 'if [insert annoying sibling's name here] jumped off a cliff, would you?' and 'just ignore them'. The second one, I personally found more difficult, because sometimes people can just be so infuriating, that all you want to do is react.

However, not reacting, not giving someone a taste of their own medicine can be so important.

By not reacting, you avoid goading them on, you don't bring yourself down to their level. That is not to say it is at all easy, but here, Jesus says to us 'do not resist an evil person'. Instead, God wishes us all to love one another (John 13:34), and this is not a small thing. It takes effort, compassion, trust.

We can often feel compelled to revenge following a personal injustice. But we are being told to just lie there and take it, but rather, not to punish. Instead, we should forgive and love one another. This is why Jesus does not just stop at 'turn the other cheek', but goes on to tell us to give. 'If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.'

The art of giving is so significant to our lives as Christians. Instead of seeking revenge, love and forgive. If someone sues you, give them more. It is not only good for your spiritual wealth but sets you apart from the crowd. You are a witness for God, and, in the middle of a brawl, people may pay attention to the people spitting spite at each other, but they will remember the one who didn't feel the need to pile up petty arguments and instead for gave.

We should be witnesses, reflecting the mighty grace of our Lord and count on his divine justice.

### **Prayer**

Our Father  
Forgive us for harbouring anger  
Help us to forgive  
Be with us in the heat of the moment  
Help us show your grace  
Allow us to give all we can