

Responding To Personal Injury

CONTINUING TO EXPLORE THE TALK ON THE HILL



Contrast 5: Personal Injury

- **Matt.5:38-42**
- **OT Passages referred to – Ex.21:23-24; Lev.24:17-21; Num.19:14-21**
- **This is dealing with personal injury, not national policy. Some have used this as a reason not to go to war.**
- **The term “eye for an eye” was a general statement to cover all personal injuries done, intended evil or property damage.**
- **The purpose was to limit revenge and was a huge step forward in justice.**

Contrast 5: Personal Injury

- **There was to be equalization of injury, and then a stop to injury and counter injury. While it was a huge step forward in justice, it was no easy task, and it rarely succeeds.**
- **How would Jesus and a Kingdom heart have us respond?**
- **Because we see God, and ourselves in His hands, and have already dealt with anger, contempt and compulsive desire and we see how Jesus responded, we are able to look at our lives and “our stuff” in a different way.**

4 Responses To Personal Injury

- **So how does a person with a Kingdom heart of love respond?**
 - 1. Matt.5:39 – They will remain vulnerable. They will “turn the other cheek.” They will allow themselves to be injured by others who mean to hurt them rather than injure the would-be injurer.**
- **This only applies to themselves, not to make someone else vulnerable**

4 Responses To Personal Injury

- 2. “Let him have your shirt” (5:40). They will conscientiously try to help, as is appropriate, those who have won legal cases against them in court.**
- **Or: they will meet someone about to sue them in the spirit of love and may even give them more than they are about to sue for.**
 - **They are, after all, deeply interested in what the other person needs and are prepared to help that person as much as they can.**

4 Responses To Personal Injury

- 3. “Go with him two” (5:41). If a policeman or other responsible official exercises a right to require assistance from them, they will do more than is strictly required of them, as an expression of their goodwill toward the official and his or her responsibility.**
- They will consider the problem of the official to be something of importance to themselves.**

4 Responses To Personal Injury

- 4. “Give to him who asks of you” (5:42). They will often give to people who have no prior claim of any kind to what they are asking for.**
- **The request itself is the only claim required to move them. They will not evade, ignore, or “turn away from” those who would borrow from them.**
 - Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God* (pp. 197-198). HarperOne. Kindle Edition.

How Do We Live This?

- It is important to remember these are not “laws” that we must do in order to “go to heaven” or what we must do in order to “be Christian”!
- It is easy to see we could carry them out in the flesh and “Do” what we are supposed to do but grumble and seeth in anger while doing it.
- We see the spiritual rightness of those who are living—as a matter of course, not just in exceptional moments—beyond the rightness of the scribe and Pharisee.

How Do We Live This?

➤ Within the human order, the presumption is that you return harm for harm (“resist evil”), that you do only what legal force requires you to, and that you give only to those who have some prior claim on you (those who are “family” or have done you a favor, etc.).

➤ Within a Kingdom heart, the presumption is that I will return good for evil and “resist” only for compelling reasons, that I will do more than I strictly must in order to help others, and that I give to people merely because they have asked me for something they need.

(Willard)

How Do We Live This?

- **In each situation I must determine if the gift of my vulnerability and my goods are what the Father would have me do! This is the challenge of Kingdom living.**
- **Each of these responses are to flow from living each moment in the presence of the Father and sensing what he would have us do. Luke 21:10-19**
- **Does that characterize your life today?**

How Do We Live This?

- 1. It is the surrender of my Life and Personal Safety to the hands of our Refuge and Strength. Ps.46:1**
- 2. It is the surrender of "My Stuff" to the Lord who Provides. Gen.22:14**
- 3. It is the surrender of my Time to my Master in Heaven. Col.4:1**
- 4. It is reflecting God's Heart of Compassion to freely give because we are asked for help. 2Cor.1:3**

How Do We Pursue This?

- 1. Pursue an intimate knowledge of God**
- 2. Pray for God to continue transforming your heart**
- 3. When the Spirit prompts you, obey**
- 4. Read of the biographies of godly people.**