

There is a path in Christianity & especially in discipleship; TO GO THE EXTRA MILE... This path works out in all of life & will bless you greatly if you can catch the revelation of it... It will bless your Marriage, job, finances, relationships, ministry, favor, opportunities-

Matthew 5:38-42 (NCV) "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, don't stand up against an evil person. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ If someone wants to sue you in court and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. ⁴¹ If someone forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² If a person asks you for something, give it to him. Don't refuse to give to someone who wants to borrow from you.

I THE WORLDS VIEW:

A- Jesus confronts a mindset; When someone wrongs you, you have the right to retaliate.

1. **Mt5:38** You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'

a. This was familiar to the mass crowd listening to him: **Q; Where did they hear it?**

i. Law of Moses: Ex 21 & Lev 24... Gods law speaks about this justified approach to life.

b. The problem is that it drifted from its context: The reason for this law had to do with; Bodily Injury, Property loss, and Death... If you injure someone, you should be equally injured/Loss of property, you will lose/Life for life (murder)

2. The issue: This became a standard for life... If you wrong me in any way, I will repay in like manner

a. A step further; If I disagree with you in any way, I am justified to oppose you.

B- But people still do this in many ways don't they- (Even believers... EVEN DISCIPLES)

1. Society has the saying; *Fool me once, shame on you... fool me twice, shame on me*

a. This is saying; You learn defense... This is a response to wrongs, I won't let it happen again!

i. They are dead to me, NEVER AGAIN... Then you campaign other people against them.

2. Couples do this in marriage: Constant fighting, and never resolve, because I've been hurt/offended/mad & I am justified

3. Employees do this at work: I don't get paid to do this! I get paid enough for this! That's not my job!

4. In ministry: Thats not my ministry/that's how it was when I got here/isn't that the door director job? They didn't help me!

5. This is a world mindset to offense, our preferences, pride & ego... Jesus challenges this mindset & life response.

II THE RESULTS of REPAY:

A- There are negative results that flow from this life approach:

1. Destructive: We think it's defensive/protective, but it actually destroys.

a. How many couples remain fighting, how many employees miss out on potential increase, how many ministries take a hit or collapse, how much calling is lost... because people approach life this way!

b. IOW: How many things break down... because eye for an eye... Im justified in my response.

2. Hinders: Progress in the Kingdom; This will hinder fruit- involve NC's in church Drama...

a. Hinders potential; People rising up because campaigns of offense & bitterness...

b. Hinders couples for ministry; God observes every area of life, and how will this look in ministry?

c. Hinders increase... If your life response is this, you can't expect to get more

3. Ungodly: Jesus is teaching us that; This is not within His nature, not for believers & not for disciples. **V39** I tell you

a. This is a mindset that needs to change in you, in life, in a church, in a ministry, in your calling,

B- Mt5:39 But I tell you, don't stand up against an evil person... Jesus says don't OPPOSE/RESIST...

1. People are going to offend, do dumb things, say dumb things, not gonna do what they should, be destructive, make mistakes, fail, let you down, be rude, leave you hanging...

a. The question is: What should your response be? Not opposition/not resistance/not retaliation... but going beyond.

2. Jesus challenges and gives a heavenly perspective because it will result in the opposite!

III GOING THE EXTRA MILE:

A- The examples here are extreme, deliberately... because they're not always the reasons we respond this way.

1. When was the last time someone slapped you? When was the last time you were taken to court for your shirt? When was the last time you were FORCED to do something you didn't want to?

2. What if your life approach was to just do a little extra? Whether it was deserved or not? Whether it was seen or not?

a. What if you gave whether you *felt* someone deserved it or not?

3. What would that do? What might that unlock? What could that open for you? What could that inspire?

B- This make you BLESSABLE!

1. Because its Godly: This is a Godly response to life... This is what God asks from us-

a. Go the extra b/c this is what God is asking of me. This is what God is telling me... The path to blessing is obedience.

2. Its done to Honor God, but he will honor you back

a. **Mt6:4** and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly...

i. Jesus discusses our text; Life responses, then he speaks to loving people outside of your circle of influence, then he talks about giving and blessing people... do it all from the heart, and God will bless you, bc that's His nature!

C- So; maybe you lack this heart; 1. Pray for it: Ask God to give you the heart you need to approach life this way. 2. Exercise it: Look for ways to bless, & be a blessing. 3. Trust God: Leave the results to God... He will reward accordingly!