

A Giving Heart of non-Retaliation

Matthew 5:38-42

(series #30)

Intro: the misinterpretation and misuse of this text

I. The Teachings of the Rabbis v. 38

- A. "You have heard that it was said."
- B. Whatever someone does to you, do it back
- C. The true intent of "an eye for an eye..."
 - 1. Ex. 21:24, Lev. 24:20, Deut. 19:21
 - 2. To mete out appropriate consequences
 - 3. To restrict the punishment accordingly

II. The Teaching of Jesus vv. 39-42

- A. His authority - "but I say unto you"
- B. His message
 - 1. Not addressing legal justice/military aggression
 - 2. Give up your rights
 - a. The example of being slapped
 - b. The example of being sued
 - c. The example of being compelled
 - d. The example of giving money

Concluding applications: Our rights are not what is most precious, our testimony for Christ is!