

HFG Questions for
“Radical Responses”
(Matthew 5:38-42)

Read Matthew 5:38-42.

1. How can we discern when a statement in Scripture is meant to be taken completely literally, and when it isn't? What is the Golden Rule of Scripture Interpretation, and how does it clarify the preceding question?

2. What is the *Lex Talionis*, and how often was it repeated in the Old Testament? How did this law prevent violent and unjust retaliation for personal offenses (e.g., Gen. 4:23)?

3. Was the *Lex Talionis* meant to be used in public (judicial) or private (interpersonal) life? How had the Scribes and Pharisees misinterpreted and misapplied it?

4. How do we know for sure that in Matthew 5:39, Jesus was not condemning all resistance of evil?

5. How is Christ's follower to respond to instances of personal assault and humiliation (v. 26)? Does this verse condemn all self-defense or protection of others? How can you know?

6. How is Christ's follower to respond to instances of legal suit (v. 40)? How was one's "coat" protected in the Old Testament Law (Ex. 22:26-27)? How should we respond when our legal rights are trampled upon? What does 1 Corinthians 6:7 say to this issue?

7. How is Christ's follower to respond to instances of unrighteous demands placed upon him (v. 41)? What does it mean to "go the extra mile"?

8. How is Christ's follower to respond to instances of legitimate and urgent needs which come across his path? How do we balance this principle with the one taught in 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12?

9. What do you need to change, as a result of studying this passage?
