

**MATTHEW: THE KING
AND HIS KINGDOM**

Character of the Disciple in Confrontation

Matthew 5:38-42



Additional Scripture References

- **Leviticus 19:18**
- **Leviticus 24:19-20**
- **1 Peter 2:18-19**
- **1 Peter 2:21-23**
- **Matthew 5:5**



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2. What does Jesus say instead about Kingdom ethics?



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Ancient ethical norms were based on the law of retaliation, but Jesus tells us that in the ethics of His Kingdom, the law of retaliation is superseded by a greater, deeper law, the law of love.



Love is much sterner than mere kindness.



C.S. Lewis

1. Awareness of who God is, the sovereign ruler of the universe.
2. Awareness that I am His beloved, the one for whom He gave up His Son.



3. Awareness that God is renovating my heart, recalibrating my moral instincts, filling me with love for unlovable people.



Their citizenship is based precisely on not getting what they deserve. His mercy, his *hesed*, makes their citizenship possible.

Once they realize all that his *hesed* has made possible, they are obliged to respond to the world with the same *hesed*.



Michael Card

We do not give people the punishment
they deserve, because we did not receive
the punishment we deserved.



Michael Card

Our tormentors, no doubt, count on our resistance and anger to support their continuation of the evil that is in them. If we respond as Jesus indicates, the force of their own actions pulls them off their stance and forces them to question what



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kind of people they are. Of course they are acting from anger, and worse. But now with our other cheek facing them, justification of their anger and evil that they were counting on has been removed.... Our response allows the



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kingdom of God, with all its resources, to begin its work. We “venture on the kingdom,” and suddenly our attackers sense that they are not playing the game they thought they were; they are not in control.



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When a task is laid on you, even if that task is unreasonable and hateful, don't do it as a grim duty to be resented; do it as a service to be gladly rendered.



William Barclay

*This is my Father's world.
I am His beloved,
and He is renovating my heart.
So I don't need to grow bitter or
retaliate.*

