

An I for an Eye
Sermon Based Discussion (October 14, 2012)
Sermon Series: Sermon on the Mount

WARM UP

1. Has someone tried to take advantage of you? What happened?

Many of us have experienced someone else trying to take advantage of us. Maybe it was a classmate or coworker who tried to make us do their work. Maybe it was a stranger. In this session, Jesus provides practical instruction for how to respond in such situations. Jesus will show us how his disciples should respond with love.

INTO THE BIBLE (Matthew 5:38-48)

2. What are the four examples Jesus gives for how to not resist an evil person? Explain how each example involves responding in love.
3. Why should Jesus' disciples love not just our friends, but our enemies?

UNDERSTANDING

4. What's the difference between being a naïve person who becomes a "door mat" and the kind of person Jesus describes in this passage?
5. How has the Heavenly Father shown love for his enemies?

DIFFERENCE

6. Jesus mentioned four situations. Which one(s) are harder for you?
 - To let someone insult you again (turn other cheek)
 - To help someone who takes advantage of you (give cloak)
 - To help someone who uses you (go extra mile)
 - To give to someone who doesn't deserve help
7. How have you responded to such situations in the past? Give an example.

APPLICATION

8. How does this teaching relate to your life right now?
9. How can you respond in love towards those who love to insult you or take advantage of you?

FOR REFLECTION

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8, ESV)