

## **Revenge Not Matthew 5:38-42**

Jesus offers a higher level of living.

### **Old Testament System: *lex talionis***

(Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21)

Five ways to respond to evil done to us:

- 1) **Turn the other cheek**
- 2) **Give your cloak**
- 3) **Go two miles**
- 4) **Give to the beggar**
- 5) **Don't refuse someone borrowing**

**Why do we give up our rights of retaliation?**

**Do we do this in every situation?**

### **Attitudes that accompany revenge:**

- I deserve better.
- You deserve what you get.
- Choices have consequences.
- I want my way.
- Justice must be done.

### **Attitudes of Disciples:**

- You first.
- I love you too much to hurt you.
- I am sorry.
- Taking the initiative to fix a situation.
- We renounce our rights for the sake of our Master and His Kingdom.

## **How to manage conflict from a Biblical Perspective**

- Respect authority
- Go the extra mile
- Be a peacemaker
- Do not be evil (evil is anything that violates the law of love)
- Be willing to suffer rather than take revenge.

**Essential Character Qualities for Disciples** that will enable us to live out Jesus' command

- Unconditional Love
- Forgiveness
- Humility
- Peace
- Patience

For further study, read Romans 12:9-21.