

Sermon on the Mount
“A Christian’s Righteousness”
Matthew 5:38-48

I. Introduction

A. Two final antithesis

1. Passive Non-retaliation
2. Love your enemy

II. Passive non-retaliation – Matthew 5:38-42

A. Note “You have heard it said...”

B. Note that Old Testament commands were given to the judges of Israel (Elders) not individuals.

1. Deuteronomy 19:17-20

2. *Lex Talionis*

C. Pharisaic error

1. Allowed for personal revenge.

D. Christian non-retaliation

1. Slapping of the cheek – 5:39
2. Stealing your shirt – 5:40
3. Forced to go a mile – 5:41
4. Asked to lend – 5:42

- a. Tolstoy's error

- b. Anabaptists and Quakers

- c. The reformers all soundly condemned a literal interpretation.
 - 1. Luther and the two kingdoms.
 - a. Secular and divine.

 - b. State is given the power of life and death.

E. Applications for Christians today

- 1 Turn the other cheek

- 2. Give away your tunic if sued

- 3. Go the extra mile

- 4. Give to those who beg or borrow

III. Love your enemy

A. The Text – Matthew 5:43-48

- 1. Rabbinic error
 - a. Leviticus 19:17-18

B. Pharisee error – possible causes

1. Imprecatory psalms such as Psalm 139:19-22

C. John Stott

D. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

E. Ferguson

IV. Conclusions on the six antitheses.

A. Recap

B. Lloyd-Jones sets forth five principles.

1. Spirit of the law matters.
2. Conformity is not only in actions but thoughts, motives and desires.
3. Law not only prevents doing wrong, but leads us to love to do what is right.
4. The purpose of the law is to promote spiritual character
5. The objective of the law is to come to know I desperately need Christ – a savior.