Series: Upside-Down Kingdom
Passage: Matthew 5:38-42
Sunday: May 26, 2024

Matthew 5:38-42 (ESV)

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

1. When is a time that you retaliated against someone intending to cause them harm (physical, emotional, mental)?

2. What is the current teaching or understanding that Jesus wants to challenge in this passage? (see Exodus 21:23-25). How might this part of the Law have been beneficial to God's people? How might it have been twisted?

3. What is our most natural reaction to those who have wronged us? What impact does that reaction have on the other person?

4. How does Jesus recommend we respond to evil (verse 39)? How is this a development or a greater fulfillment of the law?

5. What are the examples or illustrations that Jesus uses to make His point in this passage? What is the “cost” for each one?

6. According to this passage, what general principle of living is Jesus calling his followers to practice?

7. What does this passage suggest to you about the character of God and how He deals with each of us?