

2023 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." (Matthew 5:38-42)
"Anyone who injures their neighbor is to be injured in the same manner: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer the same injury." (Leviticus 24:20)

1. It's very likely that you've come up against this "eye for eye" teaching at some point in your life. What was your understanding of this scripture prior to this sermon?
2. Does it surprise you that this Old Testament commandment was to be applied within a legal court-room type setting rather than within a personal retributive setting? What difference does this make to how it could be applied?
3. What do you think the initial intent of this commandment was? Did it urge retribution or was it focus on just punishment? What difference does this make to our application?
4. In what ways do you think this commandment might have been misinterpreted within Israelite culture? What negative attitudes do you think might have laid under such misinterpretation?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them". (Deuteronomy 32:35)

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord". (Romans 12:19)

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:20-21).

1. In sermon, it was suggested that Deuteronomy 32:35 was a "balancing" verse for Leviticus 24:20. How might this verse serve such a balancing function?
2. Discuss the following quote – *"It is not our individual responsibility to pursue an "eye for eye" sort of resolution to injustices we face."*
3. One issue that regularly arises in relation to this portion of the Sermon on the Mount is a fear of becoming a doormat through literal application of the passage. How might it assist us to understand that **"not resist[ing] an evil person"**, points to avoiding 'aggressive opposition' rather than doormat-type behaviour? How might it assist us to know that meekness doesn't refer to weakness, but to power under control?
4. Discuss the following examples given us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount as presented in sermon:
 - a. Turning the other cheek – non-aggressive resistance
 - b. Handing over your cloak – exposing impure motives
 - c. Going two miles instead of just one – serving freely
 - d. Lending freely to all – giving generously
5. Discuss how one overcomes evil with good. What might this look like practically in our world?
6. How does our approach to this "eye for an eye" commandment impact our ability to:
 - a. Love God with all of our hearts, minds, spirits and strength?
 - b. Love our neighbours as ourselves?