



Part 6: Peace

Life isn't fair. As much as we wish it were, that's just the reality. This leaves us to deal with trying to figure out how to live in a world in which we are sometimes mistreated. What should we do when we are offended, injured or taken advantage of? Get even? Or is there an even better way?

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-42

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches us to actively resist passivity as we nonviolently resist violence.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your natural instinct when it comes to dealing with being mistreated or when you observe injustice being committed against someone else? Do you tend to be passive, aggressive (maybe passive-aggressive)?
2. Have you encountered the peace teachings of Jesus previously (either in church or elsewhere)? What is your initial response to the teachings of Jesus that we heard on Sunday?
3. Read Matthew 5:38-48. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? Share some of your observations of this passage. Does anything stand out in particular to you?
4. In verses 38-39, Jesus quotes Scripture that was law for Israel and then tells his followers not to live that way. What are the implications of this?
5. Discuss each of the scenarios in verses 39, 40, 41 and 42. What are the principles being taught? How do these principles raise the standard of ethics that you are used to, or that we often see in operation in our world?
6. Read Romans 12:16-21. What does this passage add to what you've already studied? What is the way of life that Paul outlines for followers of Jesus to adopt? What reasons does he give for living this way?
7. Are there parts of this kind of teaching that make you uncomfortable? What makes teaching on this kind of peace difficult to accept or apply for many people?

Moving Forward

What are some of the situations that we might face in which these principles could be applied? What is challenging about this teaching and trying to apply it practically in your own life?