

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARENTUM BIBLE CLASS

PASTOR FELICIA DUNCAN BROCK, INSTRUCTOR

Discipleship—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lesson #31—The Sermon on the Mount-Retribution (Part II)

Matthew 5: On the “Extraordinary” of Christian Life

A. What’s Our Reaction? (Matthew 5:38-42)

- The evil comes to an end when we permit it to pass over us, without defense.
- The unjust claim on my coat is answered by my giving up my cloak as well.
- Our willingness to yield up everything when we are bidden to do so is our willingness to have enough in Jesus Christ alone, to desire to follow him alone.
- Our voluntary renunciation of counterviolence confirms and proclaims our unconditional allegiance to Jesus as his followers, our freedom, our detachment from our own egos.
- Our concern here is not only with evil, it is with the person who is evil.
- My behavior should not give excuses and justification for those who indulge in violence or who oppress me.
- Nor do I intend to express my understanding for the rights of an evil person by my patient suffering.
- The humiliating blow, the violent deed, and the act of exploitation all remain evil.

- A disciple should not resist when challenged by evil that cannot be justified at all.
- Suffering willingly endured is stronger than evil; it is the death of evil.
- There is no thinkable deed in which evil is so large and strong that it would require a different response from a Christian,
- The more terrible the evil, the more willing the disciple should be to suffer.
- **Evil persons must be delivered to the hands of Jesus.**
- Not I but Jesus must deal with them.