

WEEK 5 | REVENGE | MATTHEW 5:38-42

Inspection – "What does it say?"

Compare the phrase "eye for eye, and tooth for tooth" in Exodus 21:24 to Matthew 5:38. Who is the TRUE author of that phrase?
What three things might an evil person do to you?
How should you treat an evil person? (verse 39)
How many miles should you be willing to go if asked?
What should you do if someone asks something of you?

Observation – "What does it mean?"

Why does God give judicial authority to governments, even if they do not honor His will? How should knowing that God is your vindicator change the way you look at life? In what ways do we resist evil people? Which is more valuable: an eye or a tooth? Explain. For what purpose would we treat evil people with kindness?

Life Application – "What does it mean for me?"

Read chapters 26-27 of Matthew and consider how Jesus practiced what He preached. Think of those who have mistreated you and pray for them daily. When someone mistreats you, think before you respond. Consider what going the "second mile" may mean to someone in your life. Memorize or write out the text for this week.

Meditation – "What does God say?"

1 Peter 3:9	1 Thessalonians 5:15	2 Corinthians 13:11	Deuteronomy 32:35
Hebrews 10:30	Leviticus 19:18	Mark 11:25	Proverbs 10:12

Supplication: What Can We Meditate?

Psalm 59

Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me. Deliver me from evildoers and save me from those who are after my blood. See how they lie in wait for me! Fierce men conspire against me for no offense or sin of mine, Lord. I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.

Arise to help me; look on my plight!

You, Lord God Almighty, You who are the God of Israel,

Rouse Yourself to punish all the nations; show no mercy to wicked traitors.

They return at evening, snarling like dogs, and prowl about the city.

See what they spew from their mouths-the words from their lips are sharp as swords,

And they think, "Who can hear us?"

But You laugh at them, Lord; You scoff at all those nations.

You are my strength, I watch for You;

You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

God will go before me and will let me gloat over those who slander me.

But do not kill them, Lord our shield, or my people will forget.

In Your might uproot them and bring them down.

For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, let them be caught in their pride.

For the curses and lies they utter, consume them in Your wrath,

Consume them till they are no more.

Then it will be known to the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob.

They return at evening, snarling like dogs, and prowl about the city.

They wander about for food and howl if not satisfied.

But I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love;

For You are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

You are my strength, I sing praise to You;

You, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

~ Written by David when Saul had sent men to watch his house to kill him