**July 14, 2019 Eye for an Eye Matthew 5:38-42**

If you watch the news on television like I do, you will be amazed at how thin-skinned people are today. By that I mean how easy it is for someone to get offended by what someone else has said, done, or been perceived to have done. I believe this is an issue that is addressed by Jesus which He addresses in our passage which we are studying today. When He starts out in verse 38 mentioning the “eye for an eye” what He is dealing with is the heart of man and He is still doing that today. If there is a message that is relevant in today’s society… it is this one.

The Jews of His day, had taken the passage which was found in three places in the O.T. and misapplied it. The original intent of the statement “an eye for an eye” was intended to be used in a civil courtroom setting and was intended to remind those presiding over that courtroom dispute to use fair and unbiased judgments. “An eye for an eye” was also to be the standard in which the punishment was to fit the crime.

Unfortunately, the Pharisees and other teachers of the law, had moved the intent of this passage from civil justice into that which it was never intended. They moved it into the personal and rather than mete out justice with fairness they had moved the intent into the realm of retaliation… you hit me with your hand… I will hit you with a club!!!!! That is my right… after all… an eye for an eye… right?

With these things in mind, I want to address some of the social issues of today to show you how relevant this passage is to us today in 2019. We hear so much about “rights”… so I thought I would address a few realities of life with you.

A. No one owes you anything

* + 1. You do not have a right to food, a car, an education, a job, a living wage, a house to live in, health care. You want those things… go out and work for them. That is how the people who have those things got them.

B. There is no such thing as a “free lunch”. You do not have a right to “free stuff”

* + 1. Anything that you have, cost someone something
       1. All your clothes, your toothbrush, your bed, cost someone something at one time or another

C. The government cannot give you something without taking it first from someone else

* + 1. Just because they take it from one person and give it to another does not make it right…
    2. You take out a loan… you have to pay it back
       1. Credit card debt… pay back a fraction
          1. Who pays the rest?

D. Life is not fair and it never will be…

* + 1. Sometime, somewhere, somehow, someone is going to try to use and abuse you… financially, emotionally, physically

Why are these things so? It is because there are really two types of people in the world. Those who have their minds set on earthly things and those who have their minds stayed on Christ. Note Matthew 5:20… the key to understanding… do you and I want to enter the kingdom of heaven more than anything else… that really is the question of your life and mine isn’t it?

1. But I say to you…
   1. Slaps you on the right cheek
      1. Since most people are right-handed
         1. This is a slap using the back of the hand
         2. Intended to be degrading
         3. Acts 23:1-2
            1. Paul had just given his testimony chapter 22
         4. Acts 23:3… Paul strikes back verbally
            1. You whitewashed wall
            2. Wall of dirt covered with white paint
            3. That is how I would answer… in my flesh
      2. Paul then corrects himself with Scripture (Acts 23:4-5)
         1. Why?
         2. Paul wanted to be under the authority of Christ
   2. John 18:19-23
      1. Jesus spoke the truth and did not try to hide it
      2. Still received humiliation
         1. I Peter 2:21-23
         2. Kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously
      3. Whoever slaps you on the right cheek
         1. Romans 12:9-21
      4. If anyone wants to sue you…
         1. Are we just to roll over and give them everything?
            1. No not at all
            2. Jesus is addressing the heart

Have a right attitude regardless of the situation

You have a mansion in glory that no one can take away

* + 1. Forces you to go one mile
       1. Go two?
          1. Philippians 2:3-4
    2. Give to him who asks of you
       1. Does that mean the beggar on the street?
       2. No… read on
          1. Who wants to borrow from you
          2. Borrowing… has the inference of a need
          3. With the intent of paying it back

There is a strange dichotomy within the Christian life and it is this. Sometimes it is through the most troubling times of life that we learn the most about ourselves and our need for the love of God.