

**An eye for an eye and a tooth
for a tooth will leave the
whole world blind
and toothless.**

Ex. 21:22-25???



**Doesn't revenge feel sweeter
than turning the other cheek?**

**A Harvard-UVA study
says "no!"**



When we don't seek revenge,
we minimize the offending
event to justify our inaction:
“it wasn't that big of a deal.”



**This self-talk makes it easier for
us to move on and forget
the offending event.**



***But, when we do take revenge,
we try to convince ourselves
revenge was justifiable - that
the offense *was* a big deal.
Thus, it's harder to move on.***



**The most likely motive for
vengeance in the US today?**



**The most likely motive for
vengeance in the US today?
Justice denied.**



**“I don’t care how much it costs.
This is a matter of principle.”**



**Can it be that there is no one among you
wise enough to settle a dispute between
the brothers, ⁶but brother goes to law
against brother, and that before
unbelievers? ⁷To have lawsuits at all with
one another is already a defeat for
you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why
not rather be defrauded? 1 Cor. 6:5-7**

**Today's passages:
Matthew 5:38-48**

38“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39**But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.



40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. **41** And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. **42** Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.



**Eye for an eye?
Tooth for a tooth?
The context of Exodus 21**



**Does vengeance really seek only
to balance the scales?**



**Lex talionis and the
ancient judicial system.
Substituting law for
private acts of vengeance.**



The slap
The cloak
The extra mile
Beggars and borrowers



**So Christians are called to be
milquetoast doormats?
Pacifists?**



No!

Exodus 22:2

Paul – Acts 16:37; 22:25; 25:11



Poverty of spirit trusts God to...

Meek does not mean weak!

Mercy means letting it slide

Peacemakers don't insist on

their rights!



“we do not yield from weakness to the course of events, but voluntarily desist from our just claims in the exercise of self-denying love. This yielding, in reality, constitutes true heroism, by which alone injustice can be conquered.”

Lange, J. P., & Schaff, P.



**To paraphrase Paul,
Why should I suffer wrong?
Why should I be defrauded?
What about my rights?
1 Cor. 6:5-7**



**Do I surrender because vengeance
is unhealthy it's easier to
move on if I let it go?**



16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 5:16



⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. . . Matt. 5:43-45



**I might be able to love MY
enemies, but am I supposed to
love my wife's enemies? My
children's enemies?**





**Mary
Johnson
And
Oshea
Israel**



**“I wanted him to be caged up
like the animal he was.”**



“Unforgiveness is like cancer. It will eat you from the inside out. It's not about that other person, me forgiving him does not diminish what he's done. Yes, he murdered my son - but the forgiveness is for me.”

Mary Johnson 6/8/2011



**This is why I ran the opposite
direction and refused to obey
you. I just knew you were
gonna go and love them!**



**This is why I ran the opposite
direction and refused to obey
you. I just knew you were
gonna go and love them!**

Jonah 4:2



**Shall we have Jonah's attitude
or Mary Johnson's?**

