

Cultivating a Second-Mile Lifestyle
Matthew 5:38-42

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1. The thing that draws people to Christianity is the fact that it is down to earth. It's about real people and real life.
 2. Matthew 5 is the beginning of the sermon on the mount. The crowds were following Jesus because He had healed the sick, cast out demons and cured their diseases.
 - a. Most of the people listening to Jesus for the first time are a captured people.
 3. What does all of this have to do with us at West End? What kind of people are we supposed to be? Maybe one way to answer that is by listening to what Jesus had to say in Matthew 5.
- I. Following Jesus Means That I Forfeit My Dignity. Matthew 5:39, "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."**
- A. Jesus' teaching on revenge begins with these words, **"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'" Matthew 5:38**
 1. **"But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." Exodus 21:23-25**
 2. **"Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." Deuteronomy 19:21**
 - B. Sometimes when insulted, we like to get even with our words.
 1. **"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord." Romans 12:17-20**
- II. Following Jesus Means I Forfeit My Comfort. Matthew 5:40, "And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well." (v. 40)**
- A. You have to understand a little bit about the Jewish wardrobe.
 - B. When we're wrongfully sued, we have a natural tendency to get even.
- III. Following Jesus Means I Forfeit My Rights. Matthew 5:41, "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."**
- A. A little background to understand this problem.
 - B. So what is Jesus saying?
 - C. When someone forces us to do something, we may feel resentful.
 1. **"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
- IV. Following Jesus Means I Forfeit My Control. Matthew 5:42, "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."**
- A. When people desire something that is ours, it can lead to thoughts of revenge.
 - B. Consider the statement in context.