

**Becoming**  
**Sermon On The Mount**  
**“Vengeance & Retaliation”**  
**Matthew 5:38-42**

**This study guide is intended to be used for personal study and  
within your community group to facilitate discussion.**

- (1) “An eye for an eye keeps the world blind.” We often view the idea of payback (retaliation) as “justice being served.” Consider for a moment....when are times you have felt glad that someone “got what was coming to them?”**
- (2) According to this passage, what does Jesus seem to be saying, towards this aforementioned line of thinking? Does he condemn it? Does he approve? Why?**
- (3) In Jesus countermmanding the reciprocal revenge principle by telling us to “turn the other cheek”, and “go the extra mile,” he is showing us a way of life that leads to freedom and deters us from a life of embitterment. Using the example of the roman soldier demanding his pack be carried (reference sermon), how does this behavior “shame the powers of darkness?” What are some modern day examples of this kind of behavior that come to your mind?**
- (4) The people wanted a Messiah of “payback.”(A righter of wrongs) Jesus knew this and was grieved. (Luke 19:41-42) Despite the cries of the people for vengeance/retaliation against Rome, Jesus continues in this new way of peace, all the way to the cross, where he fully/finally makes a way to end the cycle of violence and retaliation. What will our world look like if we ignore the words and way of Jesus and do not follow him in this new way? What could our world look like if we do seek to imitate/follow him in this way of living?**