

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MATTHEW 5:38-42

DECEMBER 19, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

1. **MATTHEW 5.20:** *“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”*
 - a) The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees is characterized by their making their own righteousness apart from the laws of God. (Rom. 10.3)
 - b) The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees is characterized by their being concerned more with appearances than the heart. (Matt. 23.23-28)
2. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus corrects what many had been taught concerning righteousness by getting to the heart of the matter, i.e. hate leads to murder.
3. The Law of Moses concerning justice. (Matt. 5.38-42)

I. THE TEACHINGS OF THE LAW OF MOSES

- A. **MATTHEW 5.38:** *“You have heard that it was said...”*
 - a) The scribes were the teachers of the Law. (Luke 5.17,21)
 - b) The Pharisees the ultra conservatives who adhered to the teachings of the scribes holding their traditions above the Law of Moses. (Acts 26.5; Phil. 3.5)
- B. **MATTHEW 5.38:** *‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’*
 2. The children of Israel were governed by a theocracy which had laws concerning both civil and religious matters. (Judges 8.23; 1 Sam. 8.7; Ex. 18.21,22)
 3. What did the Law of Moses teach? (Ex. 21.12-26)
 - a) The Law is found in Exodus 21.22-25.
 - b) Context: God is dictating His civil Law to Moses. (Ex. 20.1,18,19; 21.6,22)
 4. What did the Law of Moses teach? (Lev. 24.10-23)
 - a) The Law is found in Leviticus 24.19-22.
 - b) Context: During a fight, a man cursed and blasphemed. (Lev. 24.10-12)
 5. What did the Law of Moses teach? (Deut. 19.15-21)
 - a) The Law is found in Deuteronomy 19.21.
 - b) Context: God’s laws concerning false witnesses. (Deut. 19.17,18)
- C. The scribes and Pharisees took the civil law and turned it into a law of revenge.

II. THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

- A. **MATTHEW 5.39:** *“But I tell you...”* Jesus teaches the proper attitude toward others.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.39:** Resist is literally, “to stand opposed.”
 2. **MATTHEW 5.40:** If someone wants to sue you, don’t counter sue. Accept the wrong.
 3. **MATTHEW 5.41:** Roman law: A soldier could compel a Jew to carry his backpack, but only a mile. Jesus taught that you should be willing to carry it two miles.
 4. **MATTHEW 5.42:** Don’t turn away someone who is in need.
- B. How are we to respond to those who want to hurt us?
 1. This is not teaching that we sit back and take it. (Ex. 22.1-4).
 2. The Law of Moses did not teach that we have the right to retaliate with violence.
 3. There are three ways to handle being wronged.
 - a) Have a heart willing to forgive. (Eph. 4.32)
 - b) Handle it among yourselves. (1 Cor. 6.1-6; cf. Rom. 12.17-21)
 - c) Accept being wrong. (1 Cor. 6.1-7)

