

## An Eye for an Eye

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### Matthew 5:38-42



### Group Questions

1. Read Matthew 5:38-42. Which part of Jesus' words would have peaked the original audience's interest the most? Why?
2. A literary pattern is repeated in Matthew chapter 5. The pattern is "you have heard it said....but I say to you." Why did Jesus phrase things this way? What was His point?
3. Review some scriptures about justice in the Old Testament. Keep in mind that these laws applied to civil and criminal matters, and justice was to be administered by judges.

What is the original intent of 'eye for eye'?

Exodus 21:26-27

<sup>26</sup> "If a man hits a manservant or maidservant in the eye and destroys it, he must let the servant go free to compensate for the eye. <sup>27</sup> And if he knocks out the tooth of a manservant or maidservant, he must let the servant go free to compensate for the tooth.

Exodus 21:33-35

<sup>33</sup> "If a man uncovers a pit or digs one and fails to cover it and an ox or a donkey falls into it, <sup>34</sup> the owner of the pit must pay for the loss; he must pay its owner, and the dead animal will be his. <sup>35</sup> "If a man's bull injures the bull of another and it dies, they are to sell the live one and divide both the money and the dead animal equally.

Deuteronomy 19:16-21

<sup>16</sup> If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, <sup>17</sup> the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. <sup>18</sup> The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, <sup>19</sup> then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. <sup>20</sup> The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. <sup>21</sup> Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

4. Slapping someone's cheek with the back of your hand was an insult. Describe a time you were insulted and wanted to get even.
5. Do you agree that "Radical righteousness will point people to the gospel"? Why or why not? Give an example.
6. How did Jesus respond to mistreatment? Why is it difficult to practice such things and keep boundaries in our lives? Do we run the risk of being a punching bag for other people if we behave in this way?