



Daily Reflections

June 18, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 5: 38-42

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said,

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.

When someone strikes you on your right cheek,

turn the other one to him as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,

hand him your cloak as well.

Should anyone press you into service for one mile,

go with him for two miles.

Give to the one who asks of you,

and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow."

Our Scripture Reflection

So many people of faith have struggled with Our Lord's words in today's Gospel text. Is He setting us up for failure when commanding us to do what seems to be impossible? Of course not. He came to save us not to destroy us. How, then, are we to live His seemingly impossible commandment? First, we must realize that the concept of "an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth (also hand for a hand and foot for a foot in Exodus 21:24)", known as the law of retaliation, actually mitigated the law that preceded it. In "clan law" if someone harmed a member of another clan, the injured person's clan would

wipe out the entire enemy clan! Exodus changed that horrible extreme by requiring that punishment be in line with an injury. Jesus teaches that the Exodus approach to justice would be changed in favor of mercy. The true Christian must forgive and show compassion towards one who does him harm. Impossible? No, He showed the way. Easy? Of course not. He gives us His example and His Grace to help us to live His teaching.

Food for your Journey

"If revenge is all about making ourselves feel better and superior to the one who hurts us" This makes me reflect that this is kind of like a sugar high -- a quick fix that passes swiftly and leaves us less healthy.

Mark Hunter

A Prayer from the Heart

Dearest Lord, Your way is Truth and life but it just sounds so difficult at times. Lord, make me humble as You are humble. Help me to see my enemies as You saw Your enemies through Your eyes on the cross. Amen