

PERSONAL INJURY (An "Eye-for-An-Eye")

Matthew 5:38 - 42

A study of both the Old and New Testament are necessary for a proper understanding of how to deal with personal injuries from a biblical perspective. On one-hand the Bible says, "An eye for an eye." But, the same Bible also says, "Vengeance belongs to God." How do these two statements blend together? For a better understanding of this topic, complete the following exercise.

The phrase an "eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," is found three times in the Old Testament (OT), and one time in the New Testament. From each of the following three OT passages, list the conditions for this law to be executed:

1. Exodus 21:22 – 25
2. Leviticus 24:19, 20
3. Deuteronomy 19:15 – 21
4. What do you think would be some benefits of the "eye for an eye" law?

These laws and statutes were not intended for private citizens to carry out or for the taking or private revenge. But, were instead rules for the courts of Israel to use in legal judgments.

1. Read Exodus 18:21 – 26
2. Compare Exodus 21:1 (*notice the legal word, "judgments"*)

Now, compare the following verses:

1. Leviticus 19:18
2. Proverbs 24:29
3. Proverbs 25:22

From a dictionary, define the following words:

Violent (violence)
Retaliation

Injury
Judgments

Laws
Revenge

In Matthew 5:39 – 42, Jesus is not telling us to never defend ourselves against those who do us wrong, nor is He telling us to patiently endure all wrongs of others upon us. These verses are speaking of taking the law into our own hands. That is what is forbidden.

**JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING WRONG TO YOU,
DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO THE SAME THING TO THEM!**

How do the following verses relate to Matthew 5:39 – 42:

Matthew 18:15 – 17
John 18:22, 23
1 Corinthians 16:2, 3
1 Peter 2:18 – 23

Mark 15:20, 21
Romans 12:17, 21
2 Corinthians 8:13, 14
2 Thessalonians 3:10

Luke 6:30 – 34
1 Corinthians 6:1 – 8
Ephesians 4:28