

Bible Study 13 – Revenge – Matthew 5:38-42

A Vancouver man is facing harassment charges for creating a website to cause as much damage to his ex-wife as possible. The site has private photos, her address and phone number and described her as a white supremacist, child abuser and drug addict. She says it has ruined her job prospects and caused constant fear and stress. And a Florida woman set her ex-boyfriend's car on fire in order to seek revenge for an undisclosed wrong. Unfortunately, she torched the wrong car! She was identified after the police posted video on Facebook of her setting the fire inside the trunk (boot) of a Honda Accord.

Let's see what Jesus said about revenge and retaliation.

The context	After Jesus chose the 12 disciples, He preached the Sermon on the Mount to them (Matthew 5-7). Six times He contrasts His teaching with the Old Testament (Mt. 5:21-48). In this passage, a slap on the right cheek (v.39; Mt 26:67) was an insult. And under Roman military law civilians could be forced to carry military equipment for one mile (v.41).
--------------------	---

PART 1 Read and summarise each section – Matthew 5:38-42

The law (v.38)	
Correcting their Practice: - Insults v.39 - Injustice v.40 - Inconvenience v.41 - Material need v.42	

PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage

1. *What I learnt about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.*

2. *What I learnt about people like us.*

3. *Summarise a key verse in your own words.*

4. *In your opinion, what are the most important biblical principles being taught?*

5. *Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?*

6. *How did Jesus react to insults and suffering (1 Peter 2:23)?*

7. *Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?*

Because retaliation and revenge are not a part of God's kingdom, let's leave that up to God (Romans 12:17-21). Instead let's replace retaliation with generosity.



